Malacañang scraps Gloria's Mindanao visit

STORY ON PAGE A2

Shakespeare used to push condoms

O, ROMEO MY ROMEO.. WHERE FORE ART THOU

ISTANBUL, Turkey—"To wear or not to wear, that is the question."

Condoms, that is.

Turkey's health ministry is adapting Hamlet's soliloquy to

SHAKESPEARE/ A6

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2001 ★★ 86 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 348 ₱15

Taliban negotiating surrender of Kunduz

BANGI, Afghanistan—Northern Alliance fighters barreled toward the Taliban's last stronghold in northern Afghanistan on Thursday, and Taliban fighters in the besieged city of Kunduz responded with their first mortar attack in days.

The renewed fighting came despite pledges by the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance to wait until Friday to attack in order to give talks on the

TALIBAN/ A20

AFP: Misuari may have fled to Sabah

HAPPY talk for heads of state, from left, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, Mexican President Vicente Fox and President Macapagal at the meeting of the International Christian Democrats in Mexico City on Wednesday. REUTERS

Matibag aide arrested by NBI

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

A SECURITY aide of former Commission on Elections Director Angelina Matibag was arrested by National Bureau of Investigation agents yesterday, ostensibly for not having a permit to carry his 9mm handgun.

But NBI sources said Laverne Mark Manzano, 32, would undergo a paraffin test to determine if he had fired a gun recently.

His firearm would also be subjected to a ballistics test, to check if it fired the four 9mm bullets that killed Matibag's successor at the Comelec, Velma Cinco, on Tuesday.

The arrest showed that investigators were seriously looking into allegations that it was Matibag herself who ordered the killing.

A Western Police District official, who requested anonymity, said Matibag was the "principal" suspect in the case but the evidence was as yet insufficient.

The NBI said it was preparing to invite Matibag for questioning. Visiting the Comelec head office yesterday, Matibag said she was "100 percent willing" to cooperate with the investigators.

Manzano said that he did have the proper permit for his pistol, which he said he bought at the Twin Pines gun store, and that he had

MATIBAG/ A20

Imelda pleads not guilty; sues gov't

CHARGES and counter-charges. That has been the story of the life of Imelda Marcos after her fall from grace and power.

"Not guilty," Imelda Marcos once again uttered the words four times to four counts of corruption involving $352 million during her arraignment before the Sandiganbayan yesterday.

But on Wednesday, the former first lady herself filed a suit against the Philippine government for P20 billion over allegations the Marcoses amassed illegal wealth during her late husband's 20-year rule.

Ms Marcos has often said in several media interviews that her husband was a wealthy man before he became president in 1965, earning a fortune by trading in gold after World War II.

The 72-year-old widow, in her counter-suit accused the government of "political vendetta."

"The Marcoses committed no wrong, the Marcos wealth was lawfully acquired," she said in her suit.

The widow of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos faces four counts of graft for allegedly keeping secret accounts in the name of four foundations in Switzerland containing funds she and her husband are

IMELDA/ A7

Malaysian military issues denial

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL, CARLITO PABLO, NORMAN BORDADORA AND PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

RENEGADE Moro leader Nur Misuari may have already fled to Malaysia and may be trying to reach Saudi Arabia, the country's military chief told senators yesterday.

The reported escape came after the death toll in four days of fighting between government troops and some 600 armed Misuari supporters has topped 150.

But the Malaysian military denied Misuari was in its eastern state of Sabah and a spokesperson said air force, navy and police patrols had been increased.

Military officials also said that six rebel camps had already been seized, while "around 8,000 individuals" who fled the fighting that started Monday remained in emergency evacuation centers.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. immediately left for Malaysia early yesterday reportedly to attend the funeral of the Malaysian king who died earlier this week. But Guingona might raise the issue of Misuari's flight.

Government officials briefed the ambassadors representing the Organization of Islamic Conference's Committee of 8 on the situation.

A Malaysian Embassy official said the Committee of 8, which is monitoring the peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front, will recommend to the OIC general assem-

AFP/ A20

GARCHITORENA: I work well with the President. EDWIN BACASMAS

PMS head fed up with intrigues, quits Cabinet

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

SHE'S FED up with the intrigues, Vicky Garchitorena told the INQUIRER to explain the reason for her resignation after 10 months as the head of the powerful Presidential Management Staff (PMS).

In an interview, the former business executive of Ayala Corp. and civic activist said she did not have to contend with personal insults when she was in the private sector.

Asked what was the "worst" thing she had to deal with as PMS head, she replied without pause, "NCCA (National Commission on Culture and the Arts)."

Garchitorena, who heads the selection committee for Malacañang appointees, was dragged into the power play between supporters of NCCA Chair Jaime Laya and former Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani. The latter was reportedly lobbying fiercely for Laya's job.

"*Na-insulto na ako mula ulo hanggang paa* (I was insulted from head to toe). And for what? For one position in government? It's very unfair," she said.

However, Garchitorena said she did not have any problem working with the boss, President Macapagal-

PMS/ A20

MURDER MYSTERY

Investigators doubt kidnapping story

BY TJ BURGONIO AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

POLICE doubt that the missing man who allegedly served as the contact of Nida Blanca's confessed killer was kidnapped, as his family had reported.

"My suspicion is that he has gone into hiding," Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of the Philippine National Police's Task Force Marsha, yesterday said of Mike Martinez, who was allegedly abducted by eight persons near his home in Parañaque City Monday morning.

Martinez could have made up the kidnapping story to evade investigation of his supposed involvement in Blanca's murder, Gualberto said.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco also said his men were trying to determine the veracity of Martinez's re-

INVESTIGATORS/ A6

The suspect: Strunk up close and personal

BY LEAH SALTERIO

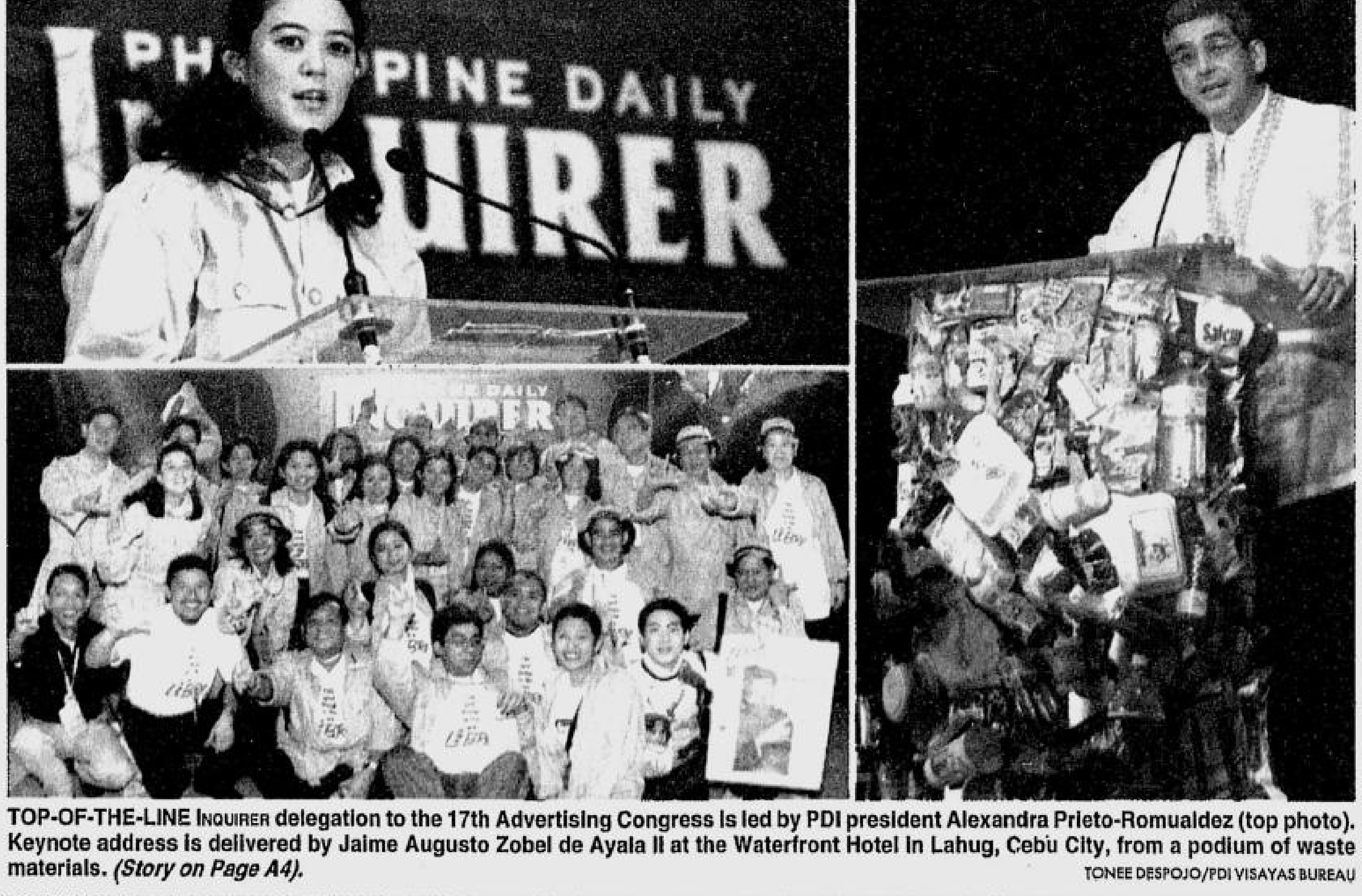
THE PUBLIC may think of Rod Lauren Strunk as "Mr. Nida Blanca," but only a few close friends and show biz insiders actually know him.

The claim of Blanca's confessed killer Philip Medel Jr. that Strunk masterminded the brutal murder has focused the glare of public attention on this native of California who was the actress' husband of 22 years.

Chito Ponce Enrile, his best friend, described him as "an honest and reliable man whom you can always depend on."

But he has never been close to

THE/ A7



TOP-OF-THE-LINE INQUIRER delegation to the 17th Advertising Congress is led by PDI president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez (top photo). Keynote address is delivered by Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City, from a podium of waste materials. *(Story on Page A4).*
TONEE DESPOJO/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Second FRONT PAGE

NAPAGOD ANG PSG!

Budget cuts disastrous–Angara

THE HOUSE-APPROVED budget of P780 billion for the year 2002 is "a sub-maintenance budget" that will pull down the economy even further and any budget cuts would be disastrous, Sen. Edgardo Angara warned yesterday.

"The House-approved budget does not allocate enough funds for growth and anti-poverty initiatives," Angara said in a press statement.

The opposition senator warned that suggestions to reduce the budget further because of the expected revenue shortfall would be disastrous. "Proposed budget cuts will be extremely counter-productive. The country's economy is not like a household or a business firm where you must always live within your means. Running a country is an entirely different thing because our national economy is more complex than a household budget," he said.

'SECURITY NIGHTMARE'

Gloria scraps Mindanao visit

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's trip to Mindanao straight from her arrival this morning from her nine-day working visit to the United States has been cancelled due to security concerns.

"It would have been a security nightmare," a source said.

President Macapagal was scheduled to fly to Zamboanga City to be briefed on the situation in Sulu at the Armed Forces Southern Command headquarters. She was also set to decorate soldiers who fought the Moro National Liberation Front forces of Nur Misuari after they attacked military and police bases in Sulu on Nov. 19.

The trip was also meant to give Ms Macapagal a chance to campaign for the administration's candidates in the Nov. 26 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Malacañang did not offer an official explanation for the cancellation of the President's trip to Mindanao, which would have taken her through Saturday to Tawi-Tawi, Marawi City, North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Cagayan de Oro City.

From Mindanao, Ms Macapagal was to proceed to Cebu and Negros Occidental on Saturday before returning to Manila.

The source, who requested anonymity, said, "Given the situation in Sulu, the trip would have stretched the PSG (Presidential Security Group) beyond prudent limits."

In a press briefing at the Palace on Wednesday, Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, AFP deputy chief of staff for operations, said the President would have been safe had she decided to push through with her Mindanao trip.

Camiling said AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva himself inspected the places Ms Macapagal was to visit.

President Macapagal is scheduled to arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport between 5:45 a.m. and 6:05 a.m. today.

She will be met by Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and top military officials, and from there motor to Malacañang for a rest.

Her original schedule had the President flying to Zamboanga City at 6:30 a.m. today after her arrival at the Naia at 6:05 a.m.

From Zamboanga City, she was to hop over to Tawi-Tawi where she was to deliver her arrival statement in connection with her US visit.

The President was to return to Zamboanga City, base of the military's Southern Command, where she was to be briefed on the situation in Sulu.

She was then to proceed to the Camp Navarro Hospital to award Gold Crosses for gallantry to four military officers and promote to the next rank an MNLF integree into the military identified only as 1st Lt. Siradian.

Ms Macapagal was then scheduled to fly to North Cotabato and, upon arrival at Awang Airport, board a helicopter to Mamasapan, Maguindanao, a new municipality.

From Mamasapan, she was supposed to go to Camp Datu Akilan Ampatuan, a police base in Maguindanao.

She was then scheduled to return to Cotabato, tape her "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo" program for Saturday at the Notre Dame University and then fly to Cagayan de Oro City where she was to spend Friday night.

On Saturday, Ms Macapagal was scheduled to fly from Cagayan de Oro to Marawi City for meetings with business and political leaders. She was to return shortly to Cagayan de Oro and change planes for Cebu City.

In Cebu, she was to address the 17th Advertising Congress and then proceed to Bacolod City from where she was supposed to motor to Kabankalan, Negros Occidental.

While in Kabankalan, the President was to hear Mass and distribute relief goods and financial assistance to local residents. She was to fly back to Manila after this stop.

A Palace staffer said the President would still push through with her Cebu and Negros Occidental engagements on Saturday.

The President will be arriving from Los Angeles where she took a regular Philippine Airlines flight after coming from a brief visit to Mexico.

While in Mexico, Ms Macapagal addressed the gathering of Christian Democratic leaders from 72 countries, calling for a stepped-up campaign against international terrorism by cutting off the sources of terrorists' funds and destroying their training camps.

She told conference participants the Philippines has approved a money-laundering law designed to make it more difficult for terrorists to gain access to money.

She also urged the Christian Democrats to support restoration efforts in Afghanistan after the US-led war is over, saying the campaign was aimed at terrorists not Muslims.

Local militant groups, however, gave a "two-thumbs down" rating to the President's state visit to the US, saying the trip reaped benefits only for the military and American interests in the Philippines.

"The President brought (back) with her a truckload of anti-people projects and the possible involvement of the US military in the Mindanao conflict," said Gerry Albert Corpuz, information officer of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas.

Corpuz said Ms Macapagal was clearly playing into US hands in order to secure support for her presidential bid in 2004.

"President Macapagal is trying to make the impression that she would be the Americans' best bet in the 2004 elections," Corpuz said.

With Gerald G. Lacuarta and an AFP report

Gloria flying on private jet, for free

By J. Sarmiento Jr.

LOS ANGELES—President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family traveled across the United States during her seven-day working visit on a private jet lent by an American corporation.

"*Libre ang eroplano,*" First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo said in New York on Nov. 17 at Ground Zero when asked whether the government was renting the private plane.

"Tom Alcantara knows the details," the First Gentleman told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Arroyo was referring to Tomas Alcantara, former Board of Investment director and now member of the board of the Manila Economic Cooperation Office, which serves as the country's embassy in Taiwan.

Alcantara, a member of the official delegation said the plane was provided by the manufacturer of Gulf Stream jets.

By traveling on a Gulf Stream jet, the First Family and other members of the official delegation avoided landing at commercial airports and being subjected to body searches and luggage inspection that could have slowed them down.

But the arrangement raised questions about the propriety of a private company providing free air travel to the President on a foreign trip.

Ms Macapagal first used the Gulf Stream when she went to New York from San Francisco. She landed at the Teterboro airport in New Jersey, 30 minutes from Manhattan.

After a three-day visit to New York, the private plane took her to Washington D.C, landing at the Andrews Air Base.

Ms Macapagal also took the private jet when she visited Mexico City on Tuesday to address a gathering of Social Democrats. After an overnight stay in Mexico she used the Gulf Stream to go to Los Angeles from where she will proceed to Manila on a Philippine Airlines flight.

Alcantara admitted to the INQUIRER in Washington Monday night that one of the private planes that the official delegation was using was for free. The delegation used two private planes, both Gulf Stream jets.

Alcantara said the two planes came from one company, the maker of Gulf Stream, which has an office in Manila.

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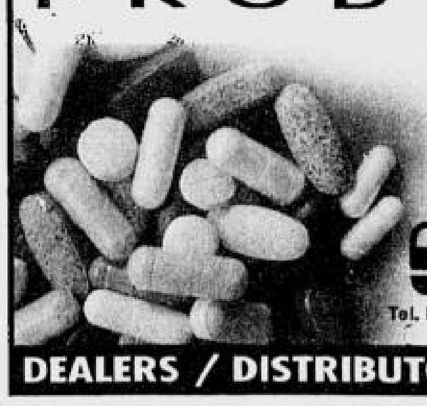

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Terror at sea: New threat looms over Asia

SINGAPORE—Southeast Asia faces a rising threat from terrorist attacks on cruise ships, cargo vessels and seaports, an expert said Thursday on the sidelines of an international security conference in Singapore.

The biggest worry in Southeast Asia is the Southern Philippines' separatist Abu Sayyaf group, said Col. Tim Spicer, chief executive officer of the London-based security consulting firm Trident.

The Abu Sayyaf is a serious concern because of its "proven links" to al-Qaida, a group suspected of masterminding the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Spicer said.

Abu Sayyaf rebels have already carried out bold seaborne raids on resorts, kidnapping tourists from islands in Malaysia and the Philippines.

Emerging threats

Sri Lanka's rebel Tamil Tigers pose another emerging threat, Spicer said.

The Tamil Tigers have developed some "very sophisticated terrorist capabilities" such as "stealth boats," mini-submarines, sea mines and "underwater scooters" that divers could use in suicide attacks, Spicer said.

The Tamil Tigers are also "trying to develop an air capability," possibly using two-seater microlight aircraft packed with explosives. Spicer said.

The group, also known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or LTTE, have been fighting to carve out an ethnic Tamil homeland in part of Sri Lanka for 18 years.

Spicer said there was evidence that such groups were stepping up plans for maritime attacks in the region.

"Realistic scenarios are a suicide attack against a high-value target like a passenger ship, which would certainly have the horror and scope and attract the reporting, which is after all what terrorists crave," he said.

Other possible maritime terrorism scenarios include groups taking control of a ship and running it into a harbor "with some sort of explosive or toxic result," or deliberately sinking an oil or chemical tanker, Spicer said.

Terror scenarios

"In the same way you turn an airliner into a sort of cruise missile, you might be able to turn a carrier of toxic chemicals into a chemical weapon," he said.

"There is a vast array of potential targets" in Southeast Asia because of its labyrinth of vital sea lanes, Spicer said.

Spicer called for more cooperation between government maritime officials and the industry's private sector to fight the problem.

Ships' officers need more training and ships need more onboard technology to defend themselves, he said.

Spicer was speaking in an interview with The Associated Press after giving a speech on maritime terrorism at Security Asia, a three-day conference that ends Friday. *AP*

Bomb scare grips Davao

DAVAO CITY—Classes in some private schools here were abruptly suspended while employees in some government offices were sent home earlier than usual after a bomb scare gripped the city yesterday.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said the incident became a cause for concern in the wake of major security problems in some parts of the island.

"We are used to having threats but this time the danger is very clear and present," Duterte said.

The Ateneo de Davao University in Matina campus was the first one to be emptied of students and employees after a caller warned school authorities that two bombs were planted inside their compound yesterday morning.

Gloria Dolar, ADDU high school principal said they received previous bomb threats but they only opted to report the matter to authorities yesterday because they were alarmed especially with what's happening in Sulu and Zamboanga.

She said there was also the growing security concerns in other parts of Mindanao as the reason.

No panic

"We were called to dismiss the students. We just told them we will be having an emergency meeting among faculty members so they won't panic," Dennis Joseph Rivamonte, an Ateneo teacher told the INQUIRER.

Some teachers even accompanied students to the school's gate.

The Special Anti-Terrorist Unit (SATU) of the police used K-9s to comb the campus but they found no traces of bombs.

Shortly after Ateneo students were dismissed, authorities at the University of Mindanao main campus also opted to postpone classes.

Schools authorities said they also received a call that a bomb was planted inside the campus.

Around 1 p.m., the Sangguniang Panlunsod received bomb threats in the City Assessors Office and the City Library. ***Dennis Jay C. Santos with reports from Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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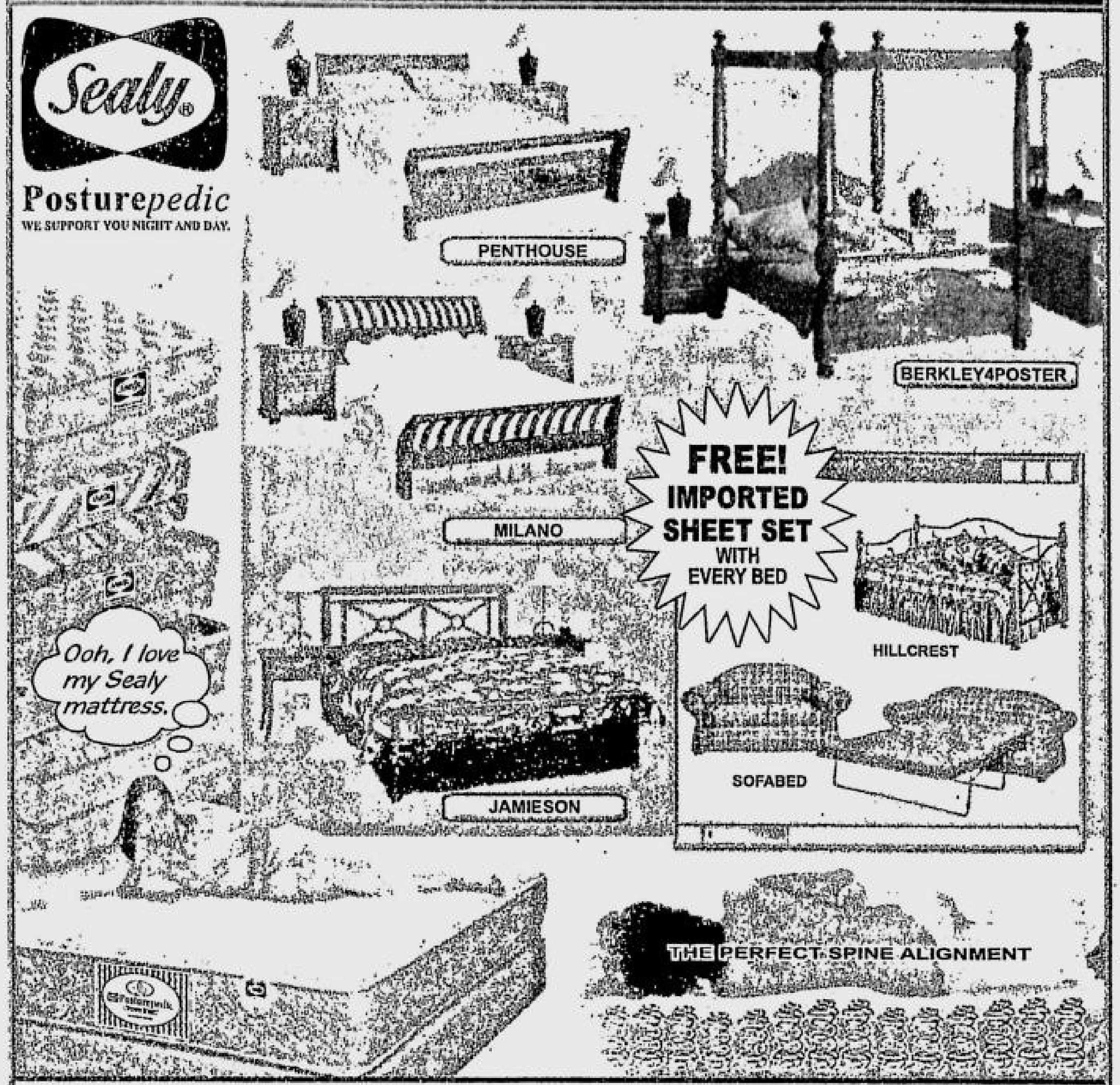
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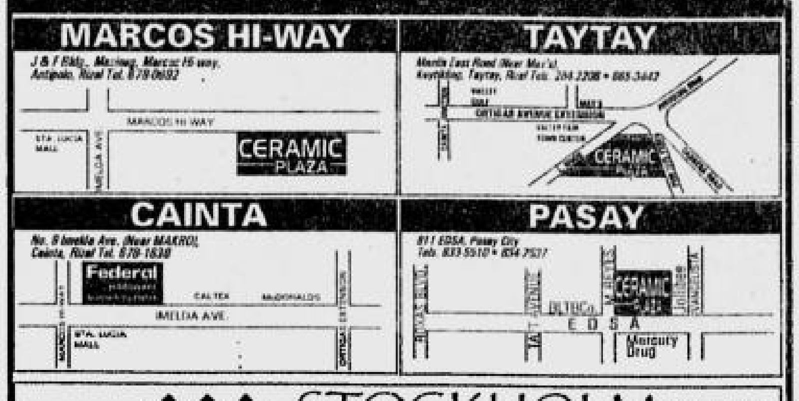
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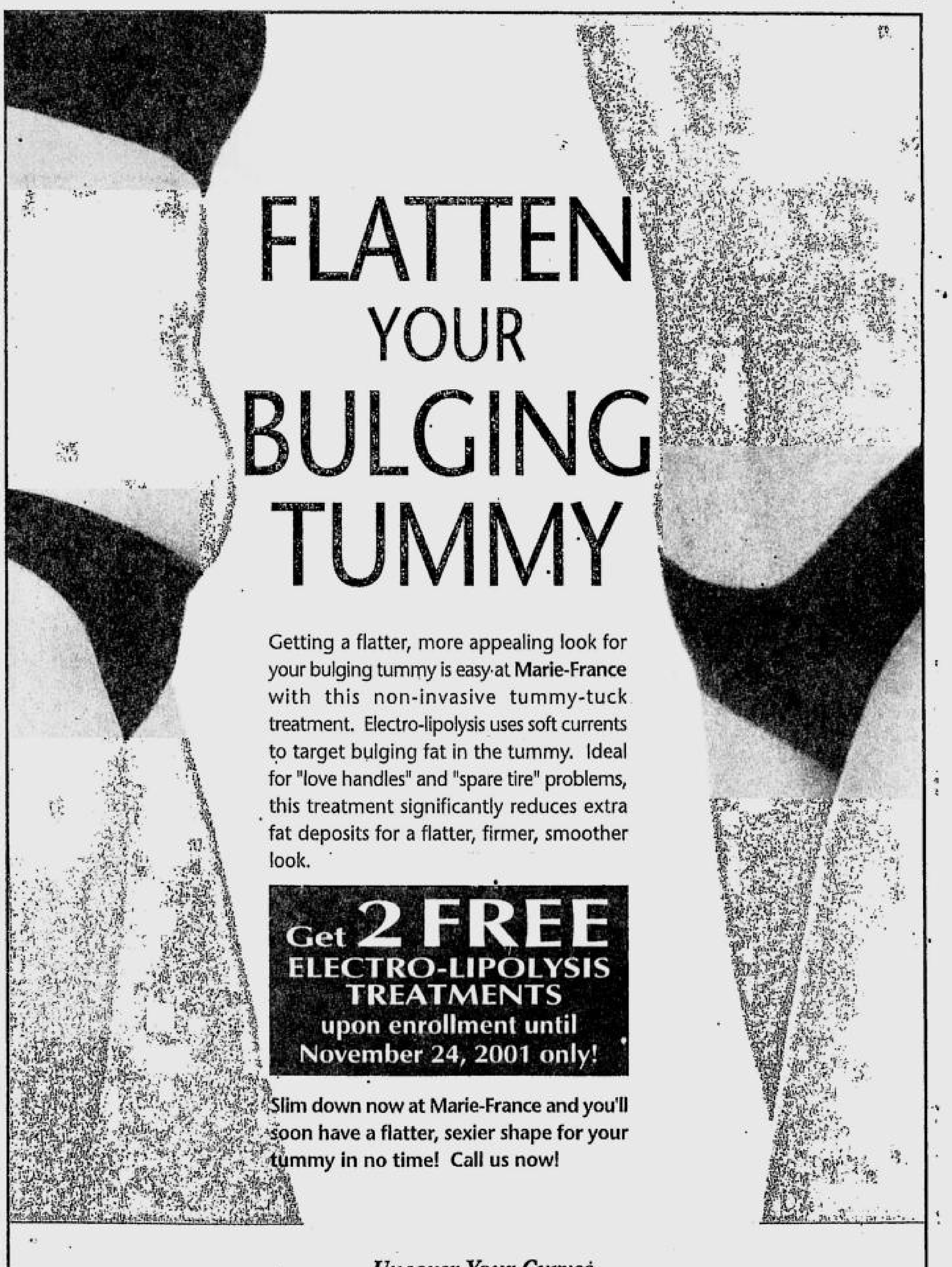
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Warden sacked for drug queen's furlough

BY NELSON F. FLORES
MICHAEL LIM UBAC
AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

CONTROVERSIAL convicted drug pusher Yu Yuk Lai is in the news again.

This after the officer-in-charge of the Correctional Institute for Women (CIW), Supt. Rachel Ruelo, was relieved yesterday for allowing Yu to leave her prison cell for several hours.

Bureau of Corrections Director Ricardo Macala relieved Ruelo for neglect of duty after she allowed Yu to leave the prison to visit her nephew and co-accused, Kenneth Monceda, alias William Sy, at the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

Ruelo said it was standard practice for correction officials to allow inmates on good behavior to visit relatives imprisoned at Bilibid.

She said this was the practice even before she assumed her post, adding that only death penalty convicts are prohibited from enjoying the privilege.

"Please be assured the visit was allowed as an ordinary privilege given to women inmates to visit their loved ones at the NBP and not for any special consideration," Ruelo said in her reply to Macala.

Yu left the prison shortly before 9 a.m. with 12 other CIW inmates who were also visiting relatives at the NBP and was back at about 3:30 p.m. They took a rented jeepney and were escorted by four guards.

The Department of Justice and the Bureau of Corrections have ordered a joint investigation into the incident.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said at a press briefing yesterday that the probe would focus on Ruelo.

Yu and Sy were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Manila Regional Trial Court on Sept. 25 for selling three kilos of shabu in 1998.

Perez said Ruelo should have gotten the permission of the Supreme Court, which is reviewing Yu's case, before allowing her to go to the NBP. He said only the SC could allow inmates like Yu to leave their jail cells while their cases are being reviewed.

Yu and Sy were arrested on the drug charges on Nov. 17, 1998. They were detained at Camp Crame before being transferred to the Manila City Jail when their case was filed with the Manila RTC.

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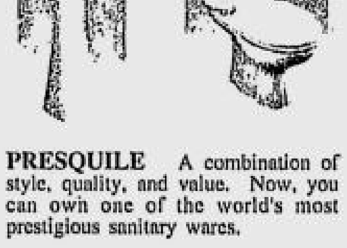

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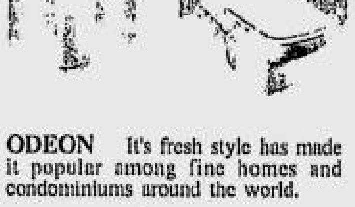

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Tank deal signed in Erap's time, says Army chief

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

PHILIPPINE Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos has denied involvement in the alleged overprice of a repair contract for Scorpion tanks, saying the deal was sealed during the administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"My role in the project was purely ministerial as it was only during my watch that the check for P201.4 million was signed," De los Santos said.

"As the new commanding general of the Philippine Army, I executed a consummated contract, otherwise the (Army) might have been held liable for breach of contract, (as well as) other damages," he said.

A private complainant, Joseph Frianeza, had filed charges before the Ombudsman against De los Santos and three representatives of the local firm that was awarded the contract—Bairam Enterprises—for the alleged overprice of the cost of tank spare parts.

The Bairam representatives were identified as Lionel W. Steele, Rosario "Cherry" Ong and Jude Villanea.

Overpriced

Frianeza charged that the P201.4 million contract awarded to Alvis Vehicles Ltd. of the United Kingdom, represented in the Philippines by Bairam, had been overpriced by P95.6 million.

He said this was done by reducing the number of spare parts for the tanks from 116 pieces to 61 but not lowering the contract price of P201.4 million.

Frianeza cited a quotation submitted by another supplier, Zyrmax Corp., which priced the same contract with the 61 pieces of spare parts at only P105.8 million, P95.6 million less than the awarded price. Zyrmax represents the TFL Group, also of the UK, in the Philippines.

In his response to the charges, De los Santos gave a brief history of the contract.

Jaza: RP can become Asia's creative center

CEBU CITY—The Philippines can achieve competitive advantage in the global economy by becoming the creative center in Asia.

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, president and CEO of Ayala Corp., one of the largest conglomerates in the country, delivered this message yesterday during his keynote address at the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress.

In his 14-page speech, Ayala, or Jaza as he is more known, said: "I believe that one day the Philippines can become the creative center in Asia—a center for the arts and culture, as well as for creative services to business and industry. The factor conditions—human resources, artistic and cultural talent, language skills, managerial know-how—are there for us to aspire to become one."

"It's not a question of whether Filipinos can choose to compete in the world or remain looking inward. I'm afraid we have no choice in the matter. Either we find a way or we get relegated to insignificance."

The congress, the largest biennial gathering of the advertising industry, had over 2,400 participants, making it the largest in the congress' 32-year history.

Congress overall chair Pedro Noy Dy-Liacco said the huge turnout may have been due to the desire of many members of the advertising industry to get out of the "pervading negativism" surrounding Metro Manila because of unsolved crimes, and slowdown in the economy.

NEWSBRIEFS

Quake jolts Metro

AN INTENSITY 3 earthquake of tectonic origin was felt from Manila to Puerto Galera in Occidental Mindoro at 6:34 p.m. last night. There were no reports of damage or casualties.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the earthquake epicenter was located 63 km northwest of Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro. It said the tremor's source was a 62-km deep movement in the Lubang fault between Mindoro Island and Batangas.

The strongest tremors, at Intensity 3, were felt in Manila, Makati City, Talisay town in Batangas, Tagaytay City and Puerto Galera. Phivolcs monitored Intensity 2 tremors in Quezon City and Intensity 2 quakes in Binangonan, Rizal and Lukban, Quezon province.

Coops, SMEs trade air

THE FIRST Cooperatives and SMEs Trade Fair will be held on Dec. 6-9 at Hall 3 of the SM Megatrade Hall in Mandaluyong City. The first of its kind in the country, the four-day fair will feature a wide array of arts, crafts, goods, and services from cooperatives and SMEs all over the Philippines and help these small-businesses gain a wider market base.

The fair, which hopes to promote cooperativism in the country, follows up a United Nations-International Labor Organization initiative adopted earlier this year to promote cooperatives all over the world as catalysts for upgrading the economic and civil sectors while giving fresh life to the entrepreneurial spirit.

Soldiers' open house

HERITAGE Homes Trece Martires, an existing 11-hectare housing project in Trece Martires, Cavite, will play host to officers and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who will be signing up for reservation tomorrow during the grand open house.

Called "AFP's Christmas in November" and hosted by hosted by Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. (MRMI), the open house will be a whole-day affair intended to give would-be homeowners from the AFP time to inspect the property and make their choices. Heritage Homes Trece Martires is a community of townhomes, rowhouses, duplexes and single-detached units ranging from 30 sq. m. to 42 sq. m. in floor area.

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Kidnappers show video of Pierantoni

PAGADIAN CITY—Gunmen have shown a government envoy video footage of a kidnapped Italian priest to prove he is still alive but being kept somewhere Mindanao, officials said yesterday.

Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni was filmed by his captors last week in their hideout, following the discovery of a Caucasian man's body on Sunday, which raised alarm from the military, presidential adviser Jesus Dureza said.

"This is perhaps to dispel the report that he was already dead," Dureza said.

An emissary who was dispatched to convince the gunmen to free the priest reported the suspects, calling themselves the "Pentagon," instead demanded an undisclosed amount of ransom.

"But I told him (emissary) that we cannot give them any ransom money," Dureza said, stressing lines of communication "are always open to them (kidnappers)."

The military said a manhunt for Pierantoni's captors were continuing in the central provinces of Mindanao.

Pierantoni was snatched in October by the Pentagon, which the military said is composed of rogue members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a separatist group negotiating peace with Manila.

Authorities last week recovered the body of a white male in an island off the coast of Zamboanga peninsula last week. Forensics experts have yet to determine his identity, but Pierantoni's colleagues after seeing the body said it did not resemble Pierantoni.

There have been reports that the 44-year-old priest is ailing and is in a poor condition after weeks of captivity. *AFP*

'Ondoy' threatens

TROPICAL storm "Ondoy" has slightly gained strength in the last 24 hours and has moved from the Bicol region to Eastern Samar, even as tropical depression "Pabling" now threatens Palawan.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's weather branch said the capital waters of Eastern Visayas, Northeastern Mindanao and Palawan will be rough.

These areas will also experience widespread rains with occasional gusty winds.

Pagasa's weather bulletin at 5 p.m. yesterday said "Ondoy" was spotted 430 km east of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, with maximum winds of 70 kph near the center.

The weather bureau said Ondoy was still on its westward path, and was forecast to move at seven kph.

Tropical depression Pabling, which was spotted near Borneo on Wednesday, is now steadily approaching Palawan with maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 23, 2001
33rd Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Mac 4:36-37, 52-59
Gospel: Lk 19:45-48

Jesus entered the Temple area and began to drive out the merchants. And he said to them, "God says in the Scriptures: *My house shall be a house of prayer:* but you have turned it into a *den of robbers."*

Jesus was teaching every day in the Temple. The chief priests and teachers of the Law wanted to kill him and the elders of the Jews as well, but they were unable to do anything, for all the people were listening to him and hanging on his words.

Commentary

Jesus is now in Jerusalem, the city of his destiny. It is the last stop in his ministry, there in the temple, the seat of authority and God's presence. Jesus now asserts his authority over the temple. The temple is, according to Jewish Law, under the authority of the chief priests. Naturally, the chief priests and others with them are afraid to lose their power. So these leaders seek to eliminate Jesus, the cause of their fear. The greatest obstacle to believing is fear. People are normally afraid of losing power, wealth, or even worse, life. And these are the very things that Jesus demands of those who decide to believe. Sometimes our belief is mixed with fear. There is no fear in love.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Termination of employment due to illness—Where there is no showing of a clear, valid and legal cause for termination of employment, the law considers the case a matter of illegal dismissal. The burden is on the employer to prove that the termination of employment was for a valid and legal cause. For an employee's dismissal to be valid, (a) the dismissal must be for a valid cause and (b) the employee must be afforded due process. A review of the record shows that neither of the 2 conditions precedent were shown to have been complied with by the private respondents. All that private respondent did was to rely on its claim that petitioner was repatriated by its foreign principal due to hypertension with nary an evidence to support it. In all termination cases, strict compliance by the employer with the demands of both procedural and substantive due process is a condition *sine qua non* for the same to be declared valid. Under Section 8, Rule I, Book VI of the Rules and Regulations Implementing the Labor Code, for a disease to be a valid ground for the dismissal of the employee, the continued employment of such employee is prohibited by law or prejudicial to his health or the health of his co-employees, there must be a certification by a competent public health authority that the disease is of such a nature or at such a stage that it cannot be cured within a period of 6 months, even with proper medical treatment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, Sevillana v. IT (International) Corp./Samir Maddah & Travellers Insurance and Surety Corporation, G.R. No. 99047, April 16, 2001]

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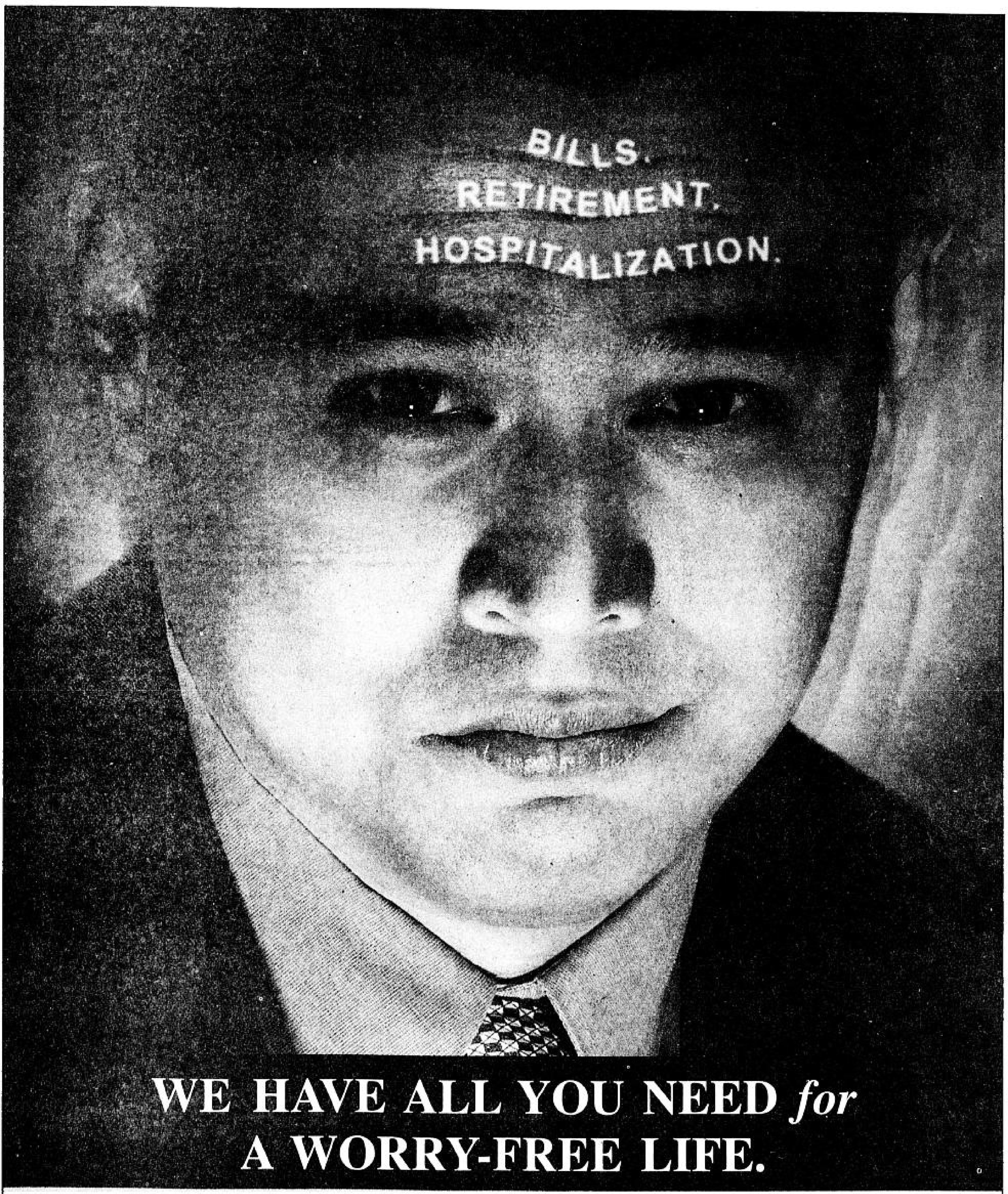
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Investigators doubt kidnapping story

(From page A1)

ported abduction.

"He could not have been arrested because there was no warrant of arrest for him," Wycoco added.

The NBI chief also said the bureau would try to determine whether the two women Philip Medel Jr. said were with Blanca when he killed her early morning of Nov. 7 were the same women ex-soldier Meliton Vizcaya supposedly met in August.

Vizcaya had earlier told the Catholic-run radio station dxDD in Ozamiz City that a woman he named only as Lisa offered him a P100,000 contract on Blanca's life, but that he declined.

He said Lisa was with another woman named Minda at the time of their accidental meeting.

Relatives of Martinez who asked not to be identified yesterday said it was police who had taken him. But Gualberto stressed to reporters that none of the PNP agencies in Metro Manila had picked up anyone of that name in the past several days.

Martinez's wife Estrelita, who reported his abduction to the NBI on Wednesday, appealed for his safe release.

"Up to this time, I have no idea where he is and I am relying on the Naktaf (PNP National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force) to speedily recover my husband," she said in a statement. "I'm appealing to the persons who are detaining my husband to release him safely. I ask for all your prayers for the safe return of my husband Mike."

Estrelita also said she was saddened by reports linking her husband to Blanca's murder.

Medel, who surrendered to police on Nov. 18, said he killed Blanca on the order of her husband Rod Lauren Strunk. Medel said it was Martinez who had contacted him for the job.

On Wednesday, Strunk denied ever having met Medel and reiterated his innocence.

Friday visit

Gualberto voiced the belief that Martinez could have gotten wind of Medel's plan to surrender, and thus went into hiding.

Citing intelligence information, Gualberto said Martinez visited Medel on Nov. 16 at the latter's rented apartment on Kamias Road, Quezon City.

Around that time, task force investigators were trying to convince Medel to give himself up, Gualberto said.

Earlier, Medel's landlady Norma Sideco said the monthly rent for his apartment was being paid by a retired military general with links to the intelligence community.

But Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva yesterday denied this. "That's not true," he said in a phone interview with defense reporters. "Why is the Isafp (Intelligence Service of the AFP) being dragged into this case?"

Senior Supt. Jesus Versoza, chief investigator of Task Force Marsha, said Vizcaya should come out in the open and cooperate in the investigation of the Blanca murder.

"He should submit himself to investigation. His revelations would have a very good bearing on the further investigation of the case," Versoza said in an interview.

He also pointed out that the circumstances of the supposed offer of the contract were similar to those Medel cited, particularly the proposed fee.

The CIDG yesterday started tracing the whereabouts of the ex-soldier.

Charles Yongco, dxDD news anchor, told the INQUIRER in Ozamiz City that in an informal conversation with Vizcaya after their 20-minute interview Monday night, the ex-soldier said he was bothered that the investigation had not factored in the involvement of Lisa, whom he described as a "tomboy."

"I can identify her if I see her again," Vizcaya had said of Lisa.

Yongco quoted Vizcaya as saying that he had something to contribute to the resolution of the Blanca slay case, but that he feared for his life and the safety of his family.

The INQUIRER learned that the NBI team that took Vizcaya's sworn statement in Ozamiz Tuesday was now working on sketches of the women based on his description.

Wycoco said the NBI was giving weight to Vizcaya's statement.

"It's a good lead for a follow-up," Wycoco said.

Vizcaya, a native of Bicol and in his early 50s, is a former member of the 16th Infantry Battalion of the Army's 2nd division based in Tanay, Rizal.

He went on absence without leave after the series of coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the 1980s.

He had stints as a factory worker, a casual employee at the Quezon City Hall, and a security guard, but he is now jobless.

2 names

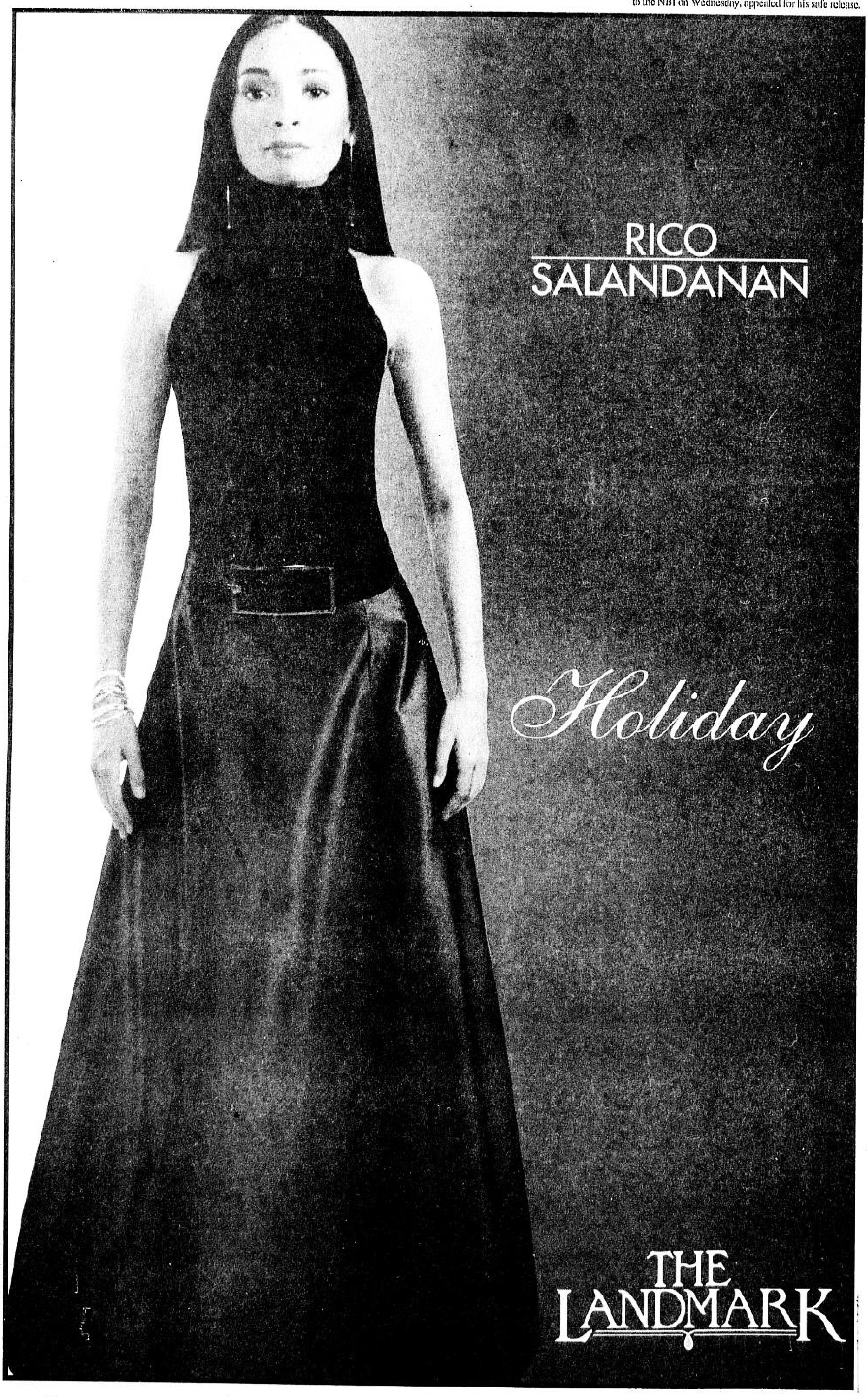
"(Vizcaya) is mentioning two names. Medel also mentioned two women. We will find out if they are talking about the same persons," Wycoco said.

Although Vizcaya was unable to get the women's full names, he provided a description of them.

He said Liza was 35-40 years old, had short hair, a slim build, round face, fair complexion, and stood about 5'3. Minda was 20-25, long-haired, fair-complexioned and about 4'5 in height.

"We will also ask Medel for the description of the two lesbian-looking women he mentioned and we will check who this Liza could be," Wycoco said, adding: "If this is really linked to the murder, then (Vizcaya) would be a very good corroborative witness."

Medel had claimed that besides Blanca's husband, two women and another man were present when he killed Blanca inside her car at the Atlanta Center in San Juan. *With reports from Martin P. Marfil in Manila; Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



Shakespeare . . .

(From page A1)

stress among the youth the importance of using condoms to prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Aside from enlisting Shakespeare, the ministry is also using Chinese history and a chorus of singing condoms as weapons in its war against AIDS.

With the help of Unicef, the ministry has produced a handbook to educate young people on the dangers of AIDS and the importance of condoms—often a taboo subject in a country that is largely Muslim and conservative, but where sex before marriage is becoming more common.

Officials say the book marks a departure from the ministry's usual dry, factual style.

"It's a new approach. We're trying to address young people in a jokey style that they will identify with," said Dr. Unal Ertugrul of the ministry's department for monitoring sexually transmitted diseases.

The book, which will be handed out free to young people in universities, cafés and cinemas, aims to address what authorities see as a dangerous ignorance about contraception and sexually transmitted diseases.

Titled "Never Without My Guardian Angel," the handbook's cover features a chorus of condoms singing a verb conjugation: "I protect, you protect, he protects, we protect."

The booklet combines information about AIDS and practical tips on protection against the disease with a series of slogans that draws on sources from Shakespeare to folk songs.

"Embrace me, hug me, wrap me in a condom," one slogan reads, adapting a folk song.

There is also a section on condom history.

"How did we get like this?" a young condom asks its grandfather.

In reply, the elderly condom runs through the history of male contraception—from Chinese silk paper and Egyptian papyrus, through Europeans fumbling with fish bladders, to the invention of latex.

The book's approach is lighthearted but it aims to address a serious information gap about sexually transmitted diseases. A recent study by Ankara's Hacettepe University found that only 14 percent of Turks use condoms.

Turkey introduced sex education in state schools only last year. Influential Islamic groups have opposed giving children information about sex and contraception, while the subject is largely taboo in conservative rural areas. Men often shun condoms.

Turkey had about 1,200 registered cases of AIDS as of June. Officials say many cases involve men who have sex with prostitutes from former Soviet states. *AP*

The suspect: Strunk up close and personal

(From page A1)

Blanca's only child, Katherine Torres, who is based in Los Angeles, according to Ponce Enrile.

"The Saturday before Nida was slain, we were all together" Ponce Enrile told the INQUIRER in the course of saying that he did not see any apparent problem hounding the couple even during their last days together.

"Rod and Nida considered me part of their family. That's why I was as shocked as Rod, and members of Nida's family, when he was accused as the mastermind," Ponce Enrile said, adding: "Even-Nida's cousins and nephews were sad after they heard Rod being tagged as the mastermind."

As though to underscore the absurdity of the claim, Ponce Enrile said: "I am the one who has a temper, and not Rod. In fact, it was Rod who would always tell me to stay cool."

Until Blanca's death, Ponce Enrile conducted weekly Bible studies at the couple's residence in White Plains, Quezon City.

The two men who loved to sing met in 1984, when Strunk appeared as guest in Ponce Enrile's TV program, "Legends of the Classics."

"Rod was trying to establish a singing career here, so he did a lot of TV (appearances) and he performed in my show," Ponce Enrile recalled.

Six years later, in 1990, they both became regular performers at the Concourse Lounge of the Manila Garden Hotel (now Hotel Nikko).

"I performed two nights within the week, while Rod sang only on Saturdays," Ponce Enrile said.

It was in that year that he started conducting Bible studies at the White Plains home.

"We are both very artistic," Ponce Enrile said. "We share so many things about music. Rod likes country and standards. I like standards and pop."

Strunk liked it best when Ponce Enrile would sing "A Day in the Life of a Fool," which is one of the American's favorite songs.

Strunk also liked singing another beautiful standard tune, "Speak Low," which he recorded in his album for RCA.

Moral, spiritual support

As Strunk's best friend, Ponce Enrile now provides him moral and spiritual support.

"That's the kind of support he needs," Ponce Enrile said. "Ever since this tragedy, we have been praying together for guidance, so we would know the right decisions to make and the right things to do."

Ponce Enrile said he had advised Strunk to seek clarity, understanding and knowledge.

"I ask him to also stay calm and to be faithful (to God), to hang on and not waver. I ask God to humble us," he said.

Elena de la Paz, a trusted aide of Blanca's for 45 years, said Strunk was a loving husband to the actress.

"He was always concerned wherever she left the house for taping, shooting or other commitments," De la Paz said. "He checked on her everywhere she went."

Annabelle Rama, a neighbor of Blanca's in White Plains, told the INQUIRER that Strunk hardly talked to the actress' close friends in show biz.

"I'm not really close to Rod and I don't get to talk to him," Rama said. "But I've seen how Nida really loved Rod and how she took care of him for the past 22 years."

Singing sensation

Strunk was born on March 26, 1940, in Fresno, California. He entered show biz as a recording artist and became a singing sensation during his teenage years.

In 1959, he had a hit single, "If I Had a Girl," and then went on to release other songs like "This I Know" and "No Wonder."

In 1962, Strunk entered Hollywood and used the screen name Rod Lauren. He made his big-screen debut that year in "Terrified" and starred in other films like "Black Zoo," "The Gun Hawk," "The Young Swingers," "The Crawling Hand," "Law of the Lawless," "Once Before I Die" and "Childish Things."

He also played notable roles on TV, like in the 1966 episode of the series "Gomer Pyle" and an "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" episode, "The Test," in 1962.

Blanca met Strunk for the first time in 1964, when he was here in Manila to film "Once Before I Die" (the American title of "No Toys for Christmas"), directed by John Derek.

Strunk was then performing at the Alba Super Club, and had had just released an album for RCA. He appeared in "An Evening with Pilita," where he met Blanca, and, later, in the "Nida-Nestor" show.

At that time, however, Strunk and Blanca each had their own partners—she, Romeo Jalosjos, who became a congressman; and he, a wife in the United States.

In 1978, when Blanca's daughter Katherine graduated from college, the actress brought her to the United States and informed Strunk about their trip.

He met them at the airport.

Before Blanca and her daughter returned to Manila from that trip, Strunk made his intentions clear that he wanted to marry the actress. By then he was divorced from his second wife, with whom he has a child (he has another child with his first wife).

Las Vegas wedding

Blanca and Strunk got married several months later on Jan. 6, 1979, in Las Vegas. It was her birthday.

Strunk decided to live in the Philippines, where he continued his singing career. In the '80s, he still performed in different venues in Manila.

A newspaper editor remembers him as "a guy who sings like Frank Sinatra."

Eventually, however, Strunk also gave up singing. Jalosjos, in a TV interview, said the couple's marriage lasted for 22 years because Strunk was unemployed.

"Nida was always possessive of her men," Jalosjos said. "She was content even if the guy did not work, as long as he was always with her."

Imelda . . .

(From page A1)

accused of amassing unlawfully.

Travel to China OK'd

The arraignment had not been scheduled for Thursday but the court decided to proceed with it after Ms Marcos petitioned for permission to travel to Hong Kong and China for one month starting this week to seek treatment for an eye ailment.

In her petition, she said she also wanted to avail of "alternative Oriental medicines in Hong Kong and china for her 'skull trauma.'" Last year, Ms Marcos had suffered a fall in her apartment at the Pacific Plaza in Makati City.

The court approved her request after she posted a travel bond of P200,000 as a guarantee that she would return.

The four graft cases were among dozens of criminal and civil cases filed by the government against the Marcos family and its business associates, accusing them of plundering the economy during the Marcos rule.

The cases were filed more than a decade ago but have been snagged in technicalities.

Each offense carries a penalty of 10 to 17 years in jail.

Imelda Marcos was convicted in two graft cases in September 1993 but she appealed and won acquittal from the Supreme Court in 1998.

Counter-suit

In her lawsuit, she also denied that her husband was a dictator. "The truth being that his regime was a regime of constitutional authoritarianism." She demanded P10 billion in moral damages, another P10 billion for exemplary damages and P10 million for attorneys fees.

The late President Ferdinand Marcos was overthrown in the Edsa People Power Revolt in 1986 which forced him and his family to flee to Hawaii, where he died in 1989.

Imelda Marcos returned from exile in 1991 and made a political comeback by winning a seat in Congress. She unsuccessfully ran for president in 1992. She has since been enmeshed in a web of graft charges.

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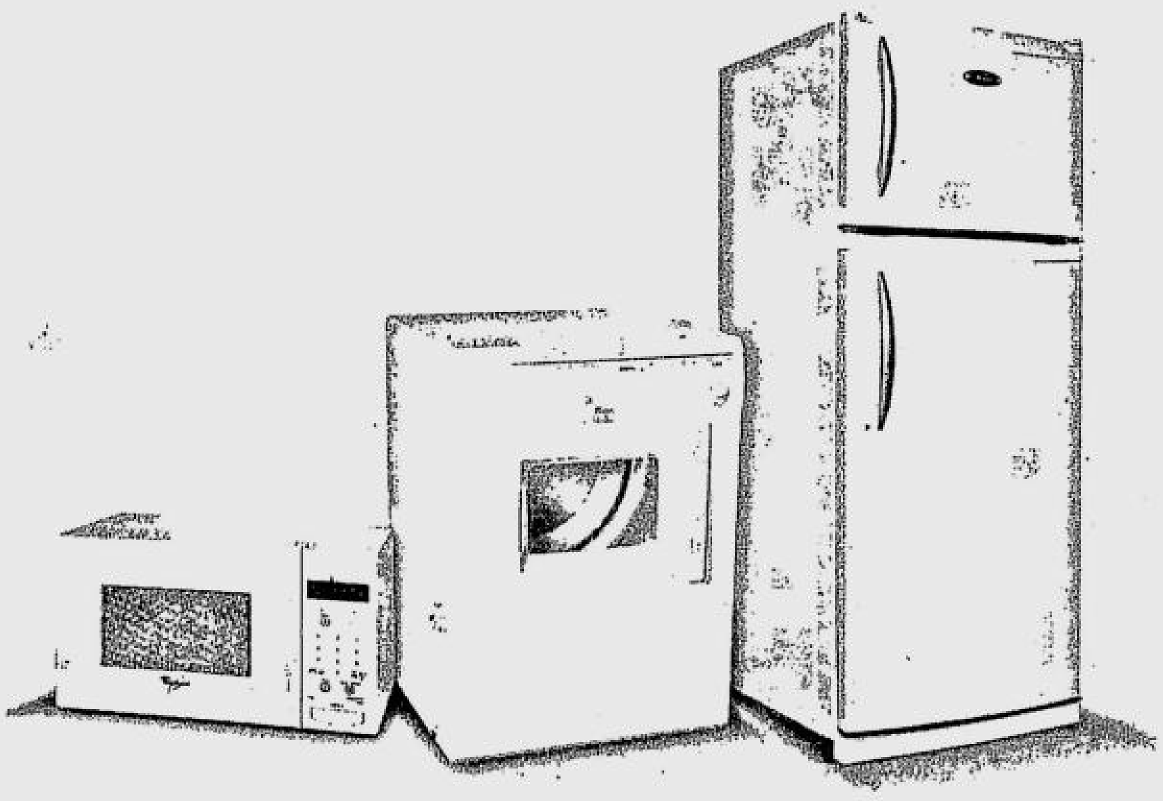

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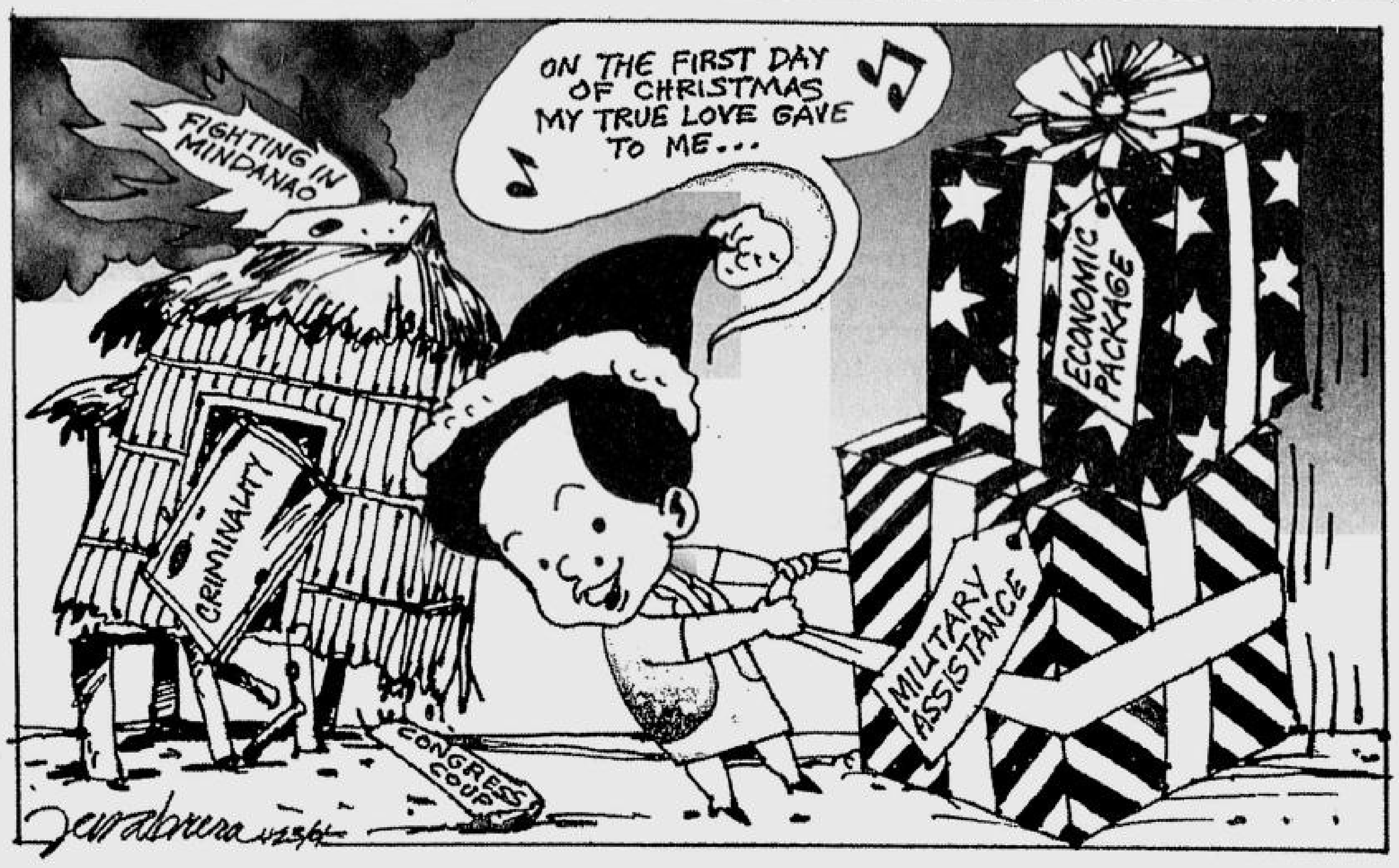

Indecent haste

EDITORIAL

WHERE has civility gone? It is very rarely in evidence now out there in the streets where every other driver seems to take perverse pleasure in forcing others out of his way. But must civil servants holding high positions also throw civility out of the window?

We don't know if the officials and employees of the Commission on Elections ever observed a minute of silence to honor the memory of the murdered director for education and public information, Velma J. Cinco, and pray for her soul. If they did, the top officials of the election body certainly wasted no time using her death as a springboard from which to lunge at each other's throat.

Cinco was shot to death Monday morning by two motorcycle-riding gunmen as she was being driven to her office. Her son Carlo, who was driving, took a bullet on his shoulder but survived. Her sister Marian Jayme, who was riding with them, escaped unhurt.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo immediately condemned the "diabolical murder" of Cinco and described it as a "planned, treacherous, deliberate assassination." That seemed clear enough, but then Benipayo darkly hinted that other Comelec officials were behind the killing, saying, "We all know who has been fighting with her." He also disclosed that he and three other high-ranking officials could be the next targets for assassination.

Cinco was said to have been feuding with Maria Angelina Matibag, whom she had replaced as head of the education division. Benipayo, who named Cinco to the post, said the clashes between his two subordinates sometimes turned violent.

Matibag, a pistol-packing lawyer, is allied with the group of Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco which has been at odds with Benipayo and his group. She was dismissed last week after refusing to report for work at the Comelec's legal department. Jayme, Cinco's sister, said the victim had identified Matibag as the source of several death threats she had received.

Matibag, of course, has denied the allegation that she had a hand in Cinco's murder. But even with Cinco already dead, she still could not hide her bitterness, saying, "She (Cinco) allowed herself to be used." She also said that Benipayo was using the murder to get back at her for opposing his confirmation in the Commission on Appointments. "There must be a deeper motive for this (killing)," she suggested.

Tancangco, for her part, called a press conference to deny suggestions that she was somehow responsible for Cinco's death. "I am used to being blamed for anything that happens in the Comelec," said Tancangco.

It is quite understandable that in her grief, Jayme would lash out at the person or persons she suspects of killing her sister. But why should top Comelec officials hurry to accuse each other of either instigating the murder or masterminding it? Why did Tancangco have to say in public that the killing was work-related? And why was Benipayo quick to point an accusing finger at some people with whom Cinco had some differences?

If these theories or allegations are supposed to help the investigators find the murderers, they didn't have to be made public—at least not at once. Such statements would have been better left to the ears of the authorities. But apparently the warring factions couldn't wait until Cinco was buried to score propaganda points against each other. Such indecent haste to cut each other down is really unbecoming of public officials especially of their rank.

With this very public exchange, the vicious infighting in the Comelec has reached a new low. And the sad thing about it is that nobody can stop it, except the Comelec officials themselves. No other government body has the power of supervision over the Comelec. There is no higher official who can summon them and knock some sense into their heads.

But the Cinco murder might just achieve what public opinion has not been able to do, which is to stop the bitter bickering in the poll body. If the investigation shows the complicity of some Comelec officials in the murder, that would not only shut them up but take them out of the poll body and send them to jail.

If not, Congress should step in by setting in motion the impeachment of Tancangco who has been accused of several impeachable offenses in the past, including the mass disenfranchisement of voters in the 2001 elections and graft and corruption. Tancangco has proven to be the single biggest obstacle to the modernization of the electoral system and the smooth functioning of the poll body. She has to go if electoral reforms are to have any chance of taking off at all.

GMA vetoed 2 bills but okayed 2 identical bills

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

REMEMBER the two telecommunications franchise bills vetoed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that prompted accusations of bribery against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo? Pacifico U. Marcelo, president of the two companies that would have been granted the franchises, the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and the APC Wireless Network Inc., gave an interview to selected journalists yesterday and he had good news and bad news about the alleged bribery case.

The good news: Mike Arroyo was not bribed P50 million or P40 million to have the veto recalled. In fact, he did not get a single centavo.

Now for the bad news: According to Marcelo, President Macapagal herself asked him for majority control of his companies in exchange for the franchise. He said the President made the demand in a one-on-one meeting in Malacañang that started at about 6:30 p.m. of August 18, 2001. A caller from Malacañang, Marcelo said, told him to wait at a fast-food outlet in Makati for a vehicle that would take him to the Palace. The plate number of the car was given to him. He said he waited there and at about 4:30 p.m., a car fetched him and took him to Malacañang where he waited for the President for about an hour. All this information is in an affidavit that he will release this morning, he said.

I am not vouching for the accuracy of Marcelo's affidavit. I am just reporting its contents which the public should know. For all we know, he may be just another Ador Mawanay. It is up to the blue ribbon committee, which is investigating the bribery scandal, to find out the truth of his allegations—if the committee will ask him to testify. Marcelo said he has volunteered to testify before the blue ribbon but that its chair seems reluctant to hear what he has to say.

Here's another piece of bad news: Although the two franchise bills for Marcelo's companies were vetoed, two other franchise bills, similarly worded but with different names, were quietly signed into law by the President. They were House Bill 8887, in favor of Connectivity Unlimited Resource, and HB 12370 for Solid Broadband Corp. These two latter companies will do exactly what the companies of the vetoed franchise bills will do: serve as a clearinghouse for interconnections among different and competing telecommunications companies

That clearinghouse can be compared to a telephone switchboard: the telephone operator merely connects calls to the right numbers. For that simple job, the clearinghouse will get 20 percent of the billings of all the phone companies it interconnects. With the present billings of these phone firms, the take of the clearinghouse, according to Marcelo, will be (hold your breath) $2.1 billion a year! (that's in US dollars). That's what is called *"tubong lugaw,"* meaning, very big profits for very little effort and investment. No wonder some greedy eyes in Malacañang are focused on it.

* * *

Airlines all over the world are feeling the shock waves of the recent tragedy in New York where 269 passengers were killed in the crash of an American Airlines jetliner.

Under normal circumstances, the crash would have been dismissed as another accident—part of the long history of unexplained air tragedies. However, coming on the heels of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the crash acquired a new dimension that is sending passengers farther away from airplanes.

Since Sept. 11, the commercial aviation industry has not been the same again. And it will not be so in the next few months (or probably years) as we see a growing number of airlines folding their wings due to massive losses.

Sabena, Ansett, Swissair and, most recently, Canada 3000 Airlines, have all shut down—victims of a debilitating airline crisis. Worst hit are American carriers which were immediately given a necessary shot in the arm by the US government to the tune of a $15-billion rescue package. New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Switzerland followed suit by giving subsidies to their respective flag carriers.

While it provides temporary relief to these carriers, it nonetheless puts other airlines at a gross disadvantage. Take the case of the Philippines and other airlines in the Asia-Pacific region. Most, if not all, are also reeling from the crisis. Unless their respective governments do some positive action in the form of subsidies or financial assistance, more airlines are expected to fold up. The result of this would most likely be as catastrophic as the Sept. 11 attacks. The closure of major airlines would certainly spell doom for the economies in their respective markets.

It comes as no surprise, therefore, that the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) recently convened in Bali, Indonesia, to sound the SOS to their respective governments. Losing the battle against giant carriers, the smaller Asia-Pacific airlines would be wiped out if no government subsidy similar to those enjoyed by their American and European counterparts would come their way.

Flag-carrier Philippine Airlines alone lost roughly P200 million in the few days that American airspace was closed to traffic. It is bleeding millions more every day as a result of the general slump in air travel.

Hit in the middle of its rehabilitation, PAL needs all the help it can get from the government lest we face the specter of PAL's closure for the second time.

'What is happening to our country today?'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BARELY had the blood dried on the body of Nida Blanca when another gruesome killing took place in the pit of Metro Manila. The victim is just as unlikely, a quiet, soft-spoken person with no known enemies. Velma Cinco, the director for education and information of the Commission on Elections, was so self-effacing she appeared only in three INQUIRER stories about the Comelec, despite being its spokesperson. She had no known enemies, if by that is meant people who carried a burning hatred for her. But she might have stood in the path of a group of people in the Comelec who are consumed by burning hatred.

That is no consolation to her son and sister who were riding with her in her car when she was gunned down by motorcycle-riding assassins. The killing looked every inch like a professional hit—though one may use "professional" here only in a macabre sense—despite the mess it made, claiming only its intended target. Cinco's son was hit in the shoulder in the hail of bullets, her sister escaped unhurt.

The murder of Blanca wrought an end to our sense of innocence, bringing reality to trample with bloody boots on the playground of our minds, or hearts, where the sun shines and the birds sing and all is right with the world. The murder of Cinco writes finis to our sense of sanity, bringing chaos along with the shrieking furies to lash out like a storm into the landscape of our minds, or hearts, where day follows night, the innocent thrive and the guilty perish, where the world lends itself to rational calculation. With those two murders, we do not know what to expect anymore.

I said in my column last Tuesday that for sheer brazenness, the kidnappings, which were now being done in broad daylight in the pit of Metro Manila, like the kidnapping of the teenage daughter of Dr. Pineda, a well-known dermatologist, threw us back to the last years of martial law when robbers robbed banks like outlaws in the Wild West. It is no exaggeration, as this recent murder drives home. The psychological mood that engulfs us with it is the same one that assailed citizens before the end of martial law. Indeed, the question that thunders out of this is the same one Emmanuel Pelaez asked the first person he saw as he was carried out from his bullet-peppered car one dark night in the time of hate and martial law: "What is happening to our country, general?"

We may well ask the same question today. Murder is no longer just a viable option for people who wish to remove other people from their paths, it has become a most preferable one. It is not a measure of last resort, it is a first one. Or it is at least high in the list of priorities. Which can only happen when murderers find nothing in the law to deter them.

All of which should prove once and for all that all that silliness about finding ways to make punishment harsher and harsher to deter crime is just that, silliness. A position, not quite incidentally, held by the business community, which it made known in its pronouncements recently: President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should be firm in her desire to send kidnappers to the bosom of their Maker. Well, she may be as firm as she likes until she gets blue in the face, but none of it is going to stop the murder and mayhem. In fact, there is only one way to deter crime. That is by catching criminals and jailing them.

Quite ironically, the kidnapping of Dr. Pineda's daughter and the murders of Blanca and Cinco happened soon after the President vowed to give kidnappers the death penalty. Murder is already a capital offense, so what else can she do? Even more ironically, all this happened while the President was busy traipsing all over the world vowing death to terrorists. Criminals wreak terror too, in case she doesn't know. Dr. Pineda and the kin of Blanca and Cinco should be able to vouch for that.

But there is another reason why Cinco's murder gives us a sense of déjà vu, and makes us ask, like Pelaez did during the dark years of martial law, what is happening to this country. Which is that the world has gone topsy-turvy, the institutions you least expect to be involved in murder are now knee-deep in it. The Comelec is the natural place to start investigating this murder from. Cinco had no known enemies, except the ones her appointment to her position as information director by Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo earned for her.

The Comelec used to be widely known only as the institution that did not know how to count. It should soon add to that notoriety the reputation for being able to count only bullets, or the days by which their enemies are numbered. The bitter enmity that has been rioting there between two camps is well known to the public and has dragged on too long. And reached, if the initial findings are to be believed, murderous lengths.

Which carries with it the seeds of a national tragedy. I do not particularly care about the intramurals inside the Comelec, but I care most grievously about how that institution projects itself to the public. Wretched as it has been in the past, its credibility has never reached these utter pits. If the murder can be proven to have originated from its ranks, how may the Comelec now presume to tame the murderous instincts of candidates in elections? The last elections were considered among the bloodiest in this country's history. And the Comelec will be presiding over the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao elections next Monday, a political exercise that will take place in a land gripped by terror and standing on the brink of war. How may it tell rival candidates to stop hiring assassins to rid themselves of each other? How may it tell them to stop ambushing each other in broad daylight while in the company of their kin and children?

Truly, we may ask the terrifying question: What is happening to our country today—Ms President?

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Initial scrutiny of the package

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the United States is so far her most important and productive overseas trip. She secured a $2-billion military and economic package from the Bush administration, as well as $2 billion worth of investment pledges from American companies and $261 million in multilateral aid.

Before we examine the contents of the package, which looks hefty enough, it is important to consider that in geopolitics, there's no such thing as a free meal. This package is tied to the new military arrangements that have been negotiated in Washington to expand the scope of the 1951 RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty and the 1998 Visiting Forces Agreement. The new Mutual Logistics Support Agreement, a communiqué on which is to be announced shortly, will indicate the trade-off or the price we have to pay for the military-economic package.

This column withholds comment on the MLSA until the terms of agreement are published, but suffice it to say in the meantime that the new military security arrangements are a creature of the US-led war on terrorism and, therefore, the terms of the agreement were negotiated against the background of how best can Philippine facilities can be employed to win that war. It is premature to yell about impairment of Philippine sovereignty or the "return of the bases" until we assess the costs and benefits accruing from the economic-military package relative to the new military arrangements.

US President George W. Bush warmly received President Macapagal and extended US military and economic assistance after her administration was among the first governments in Asia to come forward in support of the US-led coalition at a time when the United States needed to mobilize quickly international support in the campaign against terrorism, following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

In her US visit, she repeated her support of the anti-terrorism campaign with a promise the Philippines will "walk every step of the way" with the United States and its allies. She, however, linked terrorism to poverty, saying that nations gripped by poverty were the "spawning grounds" of terrorism. She was obviously referring to her own country where poverty is widespread and where the government is fighting a home-grown terrorist group, the Abu Sayyaf, which, according to military intelligence reports, had links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

After the speedy collapse of the Taliban regime in northern Afghanistan, Bush suggested that the next battle front in the anti-terrorist war may be the Philippines, and so the United States is prepared to extend military aid to bolster the capacity of the Philippine armed forces not only to fight the Abu Sayyaf and other insurgencies, but also to accelerate the modernization of the armed forces.

If it had not been for the Sept. 11 attacks and the urgent need for an international effort to fight terrorism, there would have been no urgency on the part of the United States to extend military assistance beyond the trickle in the pre-Sept. 11 era.

Thus, the package that President Macapagal secured from Washington includes $100 million for military and security programs. The Philippine military will receive a number of Cyclone-class patrol boats, 30,000 MI6s, together with 120,000 magazines (to improve firepower), trucks and C-130 transport planes.

On the economic assistance side, Washington indicated it would consider helping the Philippines reschedule its more than $50-billion debt, and a number of MOUs (memorandum of understanding) have been signed foreshadowing investment flow to the Philippines and other forms of assistance under the USAID program for specific economic projects in Mindanao.

Ms Macapagal's visit to Washington may be criticized as "cash register" diplomacy in which her administration is receiving rewards in exchange for her unequivocal support for the US-led war on terrorism. But in reality, the international economic downturn triggered by the Sept. 11 attacks and the Abu Sayyaf terrorism in the country have dragged down the economy and have stretched to the limit its resources to fight home-grown terrorism and rebellion.

Aid has always figured in the history of US formation of coalitions since World War II, and it is not entirely correct to equate US assistance as a cynical system of rewards to its allies. Coalitions are only as strong as its weakest links. The Philippines can only be an effective partner in this anti-terrorist coalition if it can strengthen its economy and if its armed forces can fight rebellions and terrorist groups effectively.

Pakistan has extracted substantial economic concessions from the United States in exchange for its political support of the anti-terrorist war and for allowing its territory as a corridor for the passage of US military forces and for opening its air space to flights of US aircraft attacking Afghanistan. Pakistan received a $600-million economic package after aligning itself with the US campaign. The United States has also agreed to reschedule $375.4 million of its debt.

President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan took more political risks than President Macapagal in supporting the US attack on Afghanistan. Before the crumbing of the Taliban regime, domestic unrest against the bombing and the Musharraf government had been rising. The Taliban has plenty of sympathizers in Pakistan, Afghanistan's neighbor which has experienced a flood of Afghan refugees from the bombing attacks. Without Pakistan's alignment, it would have been more difficult for the United States to mount its attacks inside Afghanistan.

The former US bases in the Philippines, while farther away from Afghanistan than Pakistan's launching areas for attacks, have acquired importance to the United States as staging points for the movement of ships, aircraft, military supplies and troops. The important point is that whether President Macapagal has given in too much from US proposals to expand its use of our facilities and space or has pushed hard enough to win concessions to improve the economy and our military capability to fight terrorism.

A laugh-in for Gilda

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

IT was one of those rare times when Gilda Cordero-Fernando—muse and mother, fictionist and publisher, mystic, nationalist, activist, junk dealer, trend-setter, patroness of the arts, gourmet, dancer and 40-karat friend—was reduced to a silent mutter. Spared ("They wouldn't let me," she complained.) from responding to copious compliments on her storyteller's life in and beyond books, she was confined to making faces at a "Parangal para kay Gilda" mounted by the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings (ALIWW) last Nov. 16.

"Award na Naman!" proclaimed a billboard of cartoons summarizing her long creative career, lovingly rendered by her son Mol, an artist like his mom, now a Meralco executive like his dad. Indeed, another award for Gilda was like hauling coals to Newcastle but for the fact that, faithful to her generous antic spirit, this *parangal* celebrated everyone in her ambit with her.

To begin with, the event leapt over time, back to the teacher Paz Marquez Benitez, born in 1894. The lecture on Gilda's short stories that began the event was the seventh ALIWW memorial lecture named after this author of the first modern Filipino short story, a "Dead Stars," and a major literary influence in her time. Calling herself a "token scholar" in a celebration zany as its honoree, Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo provoked the first chuckle in a morning heady with laughter before an excellent lecture on Gilda's own exquisite craft.

Thanks to organizers Edna Manlapaz and Lorna Kalaw-Tirol who allowed her friends to shape the celebration with the irreverence and improvisation that make them her friends, in full display was how and why Filipinos survive all the curved balls history can pitch them.

Ever heard of a literary award ceremony that begins with laughter, followed by a group meditation ending in more laughter? Led by the "new Jesuit" Fr. Joey de Leon of Gilda's anthroposophical study group, the Michaelics, the meditation ended too quickly for Gilda's tot of a grandson Miguel who protested loudly, "But I was sleeping!"

Next came a rap rendering of Gilda's definition of Pinoy pop culture—originally assigned to the INQUIRER's Alya Honasan, also an actress-model in the honoree's fashion-musicale "Aswang Story." She lost her voice at the last minute so the number wound up with musician Jim Paredes who had the audience clapping the rhythm. Next he had everyone singing "Maligayang Pagtanda" to the tune of "Paruparung Bukid" to an honoree now fit to be tied.

The contagion of fun spared no one. Next came the Women Plus, i.e. over 60 years old, who regularly meet with Gilda for her famous ladies lunches cum creative sessions. Capping their stream of honorifics and a presentation of her portrait by Women Plus member Araceli Dans was a confession—"Gilda's even helped improve my sex life!"—that had the audience rolling in the aisles.

Choosing a deadpan Odette Alcantara as emcee was a stroke of genius. This co-founder of Los Enemigos, who once helped slay the martial law dragon with black humor, kept up a running commentary that stoked the laughing gas without mercy. "Fiction!" she loudly accused the lady with the improved sex life, next turning on the Michaelics: "My friend Onib once asked me what meditation was for. *Sabi ko, aba, e di* to contact the higher self. *Nawala. Pagbalik, sabi sa akin,* 'Odette, I met my higher self *pero alam mo, di niya 'ko type.*'"

Without a pause—chess master, art patroness and environmentalist Odette next proudly claimed membership in Women Plus' mirror-group—the Women Minus, i.e. "*kulang-kulang.*" Jammed with Fe Ariola, Gilda's co-author for the best-selling "Book of the Burgis," was the wickedest number.

Called "Personalan," it was about Gilda the "control freak." Dialogue between over-achiever and two mischievous "under-achievers" snagging her on unplanned trips was faithfully reproduced in Tagalog. Gilda: "But where are we going?" Women Minus: "We'll know when we get there." Gilda after a few kilometers: "I think we're lost." Women Minus: "How can we get lost if there's nowhere we have to go?"

The last scene of the morning was Gilda, flower-crown askew, dancing and pulling Paz Marquez-Benitez's daughter Virginia Benitez-Licunan into the honoree's hammock. Around them danced yet another group of creative friends from Chacra, like a covey of Isadora Duncans without the benefit of rehearsals. Fellow women-writers presenting their work for the ALIWW library ended a celebration of the world as it could be—when warmth, humor and genius rule the roost. The newly liberated ladies of Afghanistan would have loved it.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

The vital importance of authority in history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHILE archival documents and dusty manuscripts are the lifeblood of history, the real challenge that faces the historian lies in the interpretation of these materials. I can spend hours, days, even months, reading and researching in libraries or archives thrilled by daily discoveries. I can spend days analyzing the documents wondering how they all form a narrative. What I dread is sitting down, facing a blank computer screen to actually write up the research. Before any primary research is undertaken, historians usually see what has been written by others on the same topic. They study the background of the authors and scrutinize their sources. Doing this made me realize that much history is based on authority and thus certain ways of seeing and understanding the past are shaped by historians before us.

Last Tuesday I brought Gregorio Zaide's 1979 textbook, "Pageant of Philippine History" to my undergraduate class and read some passages from the Code of Kalantiaw. According to the textbook, this code of 18 rules or orders was written in 1433 by Kalantiaw, the third chief of Aklan, Panay. As I read these remnants of pre-colonial Philippine law, students fell off their seats laughing. This was odd because the Code of Kalantiaw is no laughing matter. For example, the Second Order reads:

"See to it that all your debts to the chiefs are readily paid. He who fails to comply will be lashed with a whip one hundred times for the first offense. For the second offense, the debtor will be put to death by blows. If the debt is large, the debtor's hand must be immersed in boiling water three times."

With so many cases of people running away from their debts these days, I wondered how credit ratings would improve if the Code of Kalantiaw were in place. The Third Order is intriguing because it punished excessive lust with swimming for three hours. No doubt this cooled down the libido but how did they measure time in pre-colonial times? Worse, the second offense meant, "death with the prongs of a spine."

Respect for the dead was the subject of the Fourth Order of Kalantiaw. Those who disturbed graves (stole the porcelain and gold *pabaon* probably) or failed to show respect when passing graves in caves or trees were put to death. The mode of execution was being whipped to death with prongs or exposure to ants. The same punishment, short of death, was reserved for those who did not fulfill barter agreements on food. The first offense was being whipped for an hour, the second offense meant being exposed to ants for one day.

Then there were a number of rather esoteric reasons for punishment. Death was imposed on those who kill sharks or striped crocodiles. The same punishment awaited those who shot arrows at night at old men and women! Those who set fire to someone else's crops were enslaved for a year. That seems fair except that slavery for a year was also imposed on the owners of dogs that bite the chief! Why penalize the owner instead of legislating an instant *azucena* dinner? Two days' beating was reserved for those who destroyed the chief's records, trifled with the dead or deceived others with wicked intention. These all seem reasonable except that two days' beating also awaited those who killed birds known as *manaul* and those who sing as they walk in their sleep! Those who stole from the chief and elders were placed among ants for half a day. That's all right except that the same punishment is meted out on people who kill black cats at the new moon. Either Kalantiaw was a basket case or there is something wrong with his laws and his people.

Punishment legislated by Kalantiaw is not only horrendous but the severity does not seem to match the weight of the offenses. For example, those who answer the call off nature in a place of worship were sentenced to death by burning! Could the very first "Bawal Umihi Dito" signs be traced back to Aklan in 1433? Other ways to be burned alive were to evade punishment, kill young children, or steal the wives of old men. Husbands who catch their wives in adultery could have the unfaithful wench cut into pieces and these pieces thrown to crocodiles.

If my students found the Code of Kalantiaw hilarious at first reading, how come earlier scholars took it seriously? History is built on authority and sometimes we act like the people in the fairy tale "Emperor's New Clothes." We see nothing but we are told otherwise. It takes courage to tell the world that the emperor's new clothes simply do not exist. In this case Filipino historians have been dreaming of a pre-colonial document to prove we were civilized before Magellan arrived in 1521. James Alexander Robertson, director of the National Library and co-editor of the monumental 55-volume compilation of historical documents fondly known as "Blair and Robertson," first published the Code of Kalantiaw in 1917. He bought a fake manuscript from Jose E. Marco of Iloilo in 1913 and thus Kalantiaw moved from the realm of the imagination into history. At least Kalantiaw has been stricken off most textbooks in use today, but not everyone knows that Kalantiaw is fake. Ask the Philippine government, it still decorates retiring justices with the "Order of Kalantiaw."

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@ admu. edu.ph

Bidding death to wait

HIGH BLOOD

Corazon Mercado-Oliver

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

IT came unannounced, and of course, unbidden. Just a little tiredness and a slight pain at the back. No numbness. No cause, either. That Sunday morning was stress-free, unless you consider driving from Greenhills to Edsa Plaza for two breakfast appointments hectic. The weariness and weakness stayed, though, and I attributed both to a possible elevated blood pressure. To be sure, I decided to go to the hospital for a check-up, but if my knee could hardly carry my entire body, how will I drive? A taxi answered the problem and off to Medical City we went.

Upon admission to the emergency room, a doctor took my medical history and asked a series of questions. Little did I know that my answers revealed something which was farthest from my mind. Thus, I was upset when I was directed to lie on one of the beds in the room. Soon after, interns, nurses and doctors lost no time inserting an IV needle into my right wrist and an oxygen contraption into my nose. Giant needles drew blood from my arms. Twice and only minutes apart, the ECG machine churned out paper with erratic lines. By this time, my heart was pumping hard (this must be something serious, I thought, very much unlike my previous visits to the same hospital where, after being given anti-hypertension tablets, I would rest for an hour or so and then go home) and it pumped all the more when I was matter-of-factly informed that one of my two enzyme tests showed that I had just suffered a heart attack! Must be some mistake, I insisted. I was asked to have a complete bed rest but I heard my doctor whisper to the intern: ICU. Suddenly, I saw my chest heaving higher and higher until I thought it would literally burst. My body began to chill as my mind raced back to relatives of the Brent community who had recently left their earthly abode, including a former University of the Philippines classmate who lost consciousness at about 6 p.m. and did not live to see the next day.

Even while in an almost nervous shock, I did not lose sight of that something I had to say...just in case. You see, up to now, almost 10 years after my husband's death, I'm still haunted by an unresolved question: Did I do right in instructing doctors to revive him after each cardiac arrest? Did he feel any pain when his body was "shocked" back to life? To spare my family from this ordeal, I instructed my daughter to relay to her brothers and sisters my request to let me go peacefully should my case become irreversible. No artificial life-saving devices, please. I don't want to be a Christmas tree on my deathbed or a vegetable the rest of my life. I was silent on the division of whatever I would leave behind, for I knew that I had raised my children well enough not to fight over material things.

Despite John Donne who belittles the power of death, saying that it is just a "slave to fate, chance, kings and desperate men," and "dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell," I have never feared death as I did that time. I had total abdominal surgery (TABS) three years ago, but I was not scared. I could live without those organs, anyway. The heart is a totally different thing. It is the center of my being, my life and if I lose it, I'm a goner!

So, I silently bade death to wait. I still want to see my two unmarried children raise their own families or follow their own stars. Wait! I still want to see my grandsons bewitch girls and my granddaughters beguile boys. Wait! I still want to savor the splendor of the past in Europe and Egypt. Wait! I still want to see my Zonta project—a building for disabled women—rise. These, even though I knew that death does not and cannot wait.

On the second day of my confinement, my cardiologist cancelled my scheduled stress test fearing that I might not endure it in view of the latest enzyme tests. Instead, an angiogram procedure was set for the following Wednesday. Being the pessimist that I am when it comes to my health, I took the 3 percent risk involved in such a procedure as inclusive of me, so, again, my heart went awry. Much as I tried to summon the courage to face this surgery, I could not find it. Words of reassurance from family and friends failed to calm me. Not even a call from my best friend who said that she and her husband were having a Mass said for my speedy recovery. I tried to understand the reason for my fear but I could not. But somehow, later, I discovered my refuge and my strength—in the Virgin of Peñafrancia, the patroness of the Bicol region. A Zontian friend sent me the *manto* (cape) of the Virgin and I promptly placed it under my pillow. (Devotees of the Virgin will attest to her miracles; that is why millions go to Naga on her feast day.) When I was wheeled to the angiogram laboratory, I gave strict instructions to the nurse never to remove the cape under my pillow. Thanks to the Virgin, the results showed only a 30-percent block in a major artery, something that medicines can take care of.

Upon discharge, my doctors cautioned me against anything excessive. Everything I do or take must be in moderation.

Slowing down the pace of life was a monumental problem at first, since I was used to living in the fast lane. I loved to shop till I dropped. I walked fast. I did not rest whenever I was doing something. Oftentimes, I would still do as I did before until my heart would palpitate and I would remember to slow down and put an Isordil beneath my tongue. Then, the fear would hit me again. Is this going to be my last breath? And then, a resignation to the unknown. I could not think beyond the moment. How could I, when I did not know whether I would have another minute?

Now, less than four months after my heart attack, I am back to my old self. I again drive myself to school, no longer afraid that I might just slump over the steering wheel in the event of an attack. On a recent trip to Bangkok for the Zonta International District Conference, I shopped until the wee hours of the morning even after a rigorous schedule of workshops, campaigns, elections and formal dinners.

Each day, I look forward to the highs and lows of my classes at Brent, to lunches and dinners with my friends during weekends, to Christmas with my brood of grandchildren, each different from the other in his/her own charming way, to a busy Zonta biennium, and to a much awaited retirement. Like Ulysses, I shall sail the seas to find my Ithaca—a happier midlife (who says old age?) especially now that the life span of man has extended to 120 years. I will be happy, I promised myself for, after all, happiness is a decision, not just an emotion.

Most important of all—I have resolved unto myself that even if I know that nothing is as sure as death, I will not succumb to the enticements of Donne. Rather, I would take Dylan Thomas' advice to his father to "rage, rage, against the dying of the light."

Corazon Mercado-Oliver was a society editor of The Philippine Collegian in the '60s and is now an Upper School teacher at the Brent International School (South Campus). She is also the president of the Zonta Club of Naga and Camarines Sur and the vice area director-elect for 2002-2004.

THEY SAID

President behind a coup

"I can't imagine a former president attempting to mount a coup. What for? He would not benefit from it."
—Sen. Joker Arroyo on rumors that former President Fidel Ramos was behind a coup attempt

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Priest's abduction happened in Tagum

AS chair of the tourism committee of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Davao City, I am very disappointed and angered by your wrongly headlined news item last Nov. 14 saying, "Muslim priest seized on Davao City Street."

While the headline mentioned Davao City, the event actually happened in Tagum City. Nothing reported in the article ever happened in Davao City.

For your information, Tagum is 54 kilometers away from Davao City or approximately one hour away by land. We are very disappointed with this irresponsible news reporting especially since the correspondent, Anthony Allada, is a resident of Davao City. This is not the first time that your paper has shown geographical ignorance.

We don't like but have accepted the fact that Mindanao is always portrayed negatively in your paper. We, in the tourism industry, have been spending millions to promote our island, and a single negative news report puts to waste all the effort we have made.

We just wonder why every time a skirmish between the military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front happens in a far-flung area in Maguindanao, your headline would scream "Mindanao at war" while if a skirmish happens between the military and the New People's Army in another far-flung area in, say, Quezon province, you would not say "Luzon at war."

We are starting to believe that this is either just another arrogant display of power by the media from Imperial Manila, or your editors and reporters do not care to know enough about Philippine geography to be accurate. Sometimes "balanced news" and "fearless views" are just not enough. Try responsible news reporting sometimes.—**SUSAN ISABEL C. RETA, councilor, Second District, Davao City**

THE HEADLINE writer erred when he wrote "Davao City" instead of "Tagum City" in the headline. Probably he was influenced by the dateline—Davao City—and committed the error under deadline pressure. It was not the mistake of the correspondent. This was not "another arrogant display of power" by the media in Manila; it's just plain, human error. Sometimes, we do make mistakes. We apologize for the error.—**Ed.**

Not much faith in prayer

ONE would be hard pressed to find a more shameful display of constitutional transgression than that depicted in photographs appearing last Sunday in many newspapers showing the leaders of our government linking hands and praying!

The "most respected man" in the government, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, more than anyone else, should know that we have a secular government, which is prohibited by the Constitution from supporting any one or all religions. By praying publicly and in their capacity as government functionaries yet, our leaders have brushed aside the clear injunction of the Constitution enjoining complete separation of Church and State.

If prayer were effective at all, our country, the only Christian country in Asia, would be the most prosperous country in the world today. The fact is nothing fails like prayer and its effect, statistically, is no better than chance. Our government leaders may well be reminded that "hands that help are better than lips that pray."—**FIDEL VENTURA, vice chair, Philippine Society of Rational Humanists, MCPO Box 3036, 1270 Makati City**

LETTERS

Scalawags in the BIR

IT is infuriating to read that almost P250 billion is lost yearly due to corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

This is injustice to ordinary wage earners like me whose tax liabilities are immediately deducted from our monthly salaries.

Since the Department of Finance has already begun identifying the sources of tax collection losses, why can't a top to bottom reform of the BIR's administrative function be conducted?

I suspect that many of the losses in tax collection are due to the systemic corruption in the bureau and not just a mere understatement of tax returns.

I know of BIR officials who have lavish lifestyles but I barely hear of a BIR employee being sanctioned for corrupt practices.

These crooks should be sought out and thrown in jail if we, as a people, still hope for or a better future for our nation.—**AURING CUETO, San Juan, Batangas**

Napocor exec answers report

I WOULD like to respond to the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism's report on the Government Service Insurance System Reinsurance that was published recently in several newspapers.

(1) The report says that I was one of the National Power Corp. officials "caught holding secret meetings with the GSIS." This is not true. I believe the PCIJ report wrongly quoted our Napocor president for I never held secret meetings with the GSIS or was I reprimanded for supposedly doing such. From August 2001 to this day, I can recall only two instances when I met with GSIS officials. One was in early August 2001 in an insurance claims meeting held in the Napocor main office in Diliman, Quezon City which was attended by the Napocor's Risk Management Division personnel, GSIS officials, a representative from the reinsurance broker and representatives from the Insurance Adjusters Crawford, GIT and Expertise. That meeting cannot be secret as official invitations were sent by the Napocor to the other parties, and there are subsequent communications referring to that meeting. The other time that I met with GSIS officials was on Sept. 11 and 12, 2001 when I had to go to the GSIS office in Manila to inquire about and secure a copy of the insurance policy. I went to the GSIS in response to a query from the Napocor president. The visits to the GSIS cannot be considered secret as I have logged in before entering the GSIS building, and my Sept. 11 visit was even mentioned in my Sept. 18, 2001 report to the Napocor president.

(2) The report also says that I placed the Napocor's property damage at $20 million, more than double the $9 million the GSIS had estimated. The statement maliciously implied that the Napocor's estimates of outstanding losses are being intentionally bloated by the Napocor's Risk Management Division. Again, this is not true. Loss estimates are not produced by the Napocor's Risk Management Division. The figures come from the Napocor's operations/field personnel or from personnel of affected Napocor facilities who are in the best position to determine the cost of reinstating damaged facilities. They can also come from insurance adjusters if estimates from the Napocor are not yet available. All loss estimates submitted for renewal purposes are based on most updated information at any particular time. They all have documentary basis.—**ANTONIO M. INGCO, department manager, National Power Corp., Corner Quezon Avenue and Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City**

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Notice is given of the loss of Philippine Daily Inquirer **Official Receipt Numbers 412209 to 412250.**

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Philippine Daily Inquirer Management

(PDI -- Nov. 9, 16 & 23, 2001)

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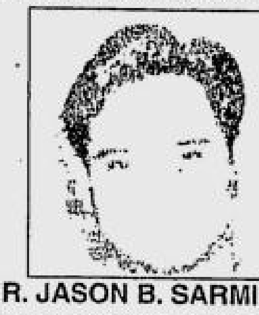

MR. JASON B. SARMIENTO

25 years old, single whose picture appears above is no longer connected with RAM & CO. effective September 30, 2001. The company will not honor any transaction made by him beyond this date.

(PDI -- Nov. 22, 2001)

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CESB rules not mere formalities or red tape

THIS refers to the letter of Benny P. de Guzman last Oct. 19, 2001, in which he replied to my earlier letter regarding the appointments of Emma Rosqueta and Gil Valera as deputy commissioners of the Bureau of Customs.

Just like his first letter, De Guzman seems to have his information all mixed up again. Let me therefore underscore salient points of the issues raised.

On the issue of the age limit to qualify for the Management Aptitude Test Battery (MATB), I did state clearly in my first letter that the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) has already dropped the 55 and the 60 years old and below requirements for division chiefs and incumbents of CES positions, respectively. But even when these requirements were not yet lifted, the mere fact that Rosqueta is over the age limit does not mean that her disqualification because of age is tantamount to being considered a CES eligible.

In any case, an incumbent of a CES position should be fully aware of the requirements of CES eligibility and appointment to a CES rank, especially when he/she has been in the government service for 40 years.

De Guzman then continued that based on "the procedure that (I) outlined, Rosqueta appears to have acquired eligibility since she was exempted from the exam, she underwent the assessment and interview, and her on-the-job performance was validated. In other words, Rosqueta has complied with the procedural requirements..."

CESB records show that Ms Rosqueta has never undergone any stage of the CES eligibility examination process. Thus, she was never conferred CES eligibility and could not be recommended to a CES rank which provides security of tenure.

De Guzman also said that I am "sending the wrong message to millions of public servants if she fails to see the bigger picture, and insists on sticking to procedure as the sole basis for eligibility. Procedures are mere formalities."

In fairness to the thousands of CES officials who promote careerism and professionalization in the executive level of the Philippine bureaucracy, it is worth noting that they went through and passed the entire eligibility process because they believe in it.

We are not questioning the kind of dedication and the years of service that Rosqueta had brought to the BOC, but let me stress that long years—even 40 years—of working in government alone do not guarantee security of tenure to any executive in the bureaucracy.

We have rules and regulations to follow in government. And what the CESB is implementing like the MATB, assessment and interview, validation of on-the-job performance are not mere formalities or bureaucratic red tape as De Guzman implies. These are policy decisions promulgated by the CESB anchored on the CES concept of well-selected and development-oriented career executives, setting high standards in managerial capability, competence and integrity.

Let me assure all government executives that we in the CESB are painstakingly abiding by these rules simply because we want to create a system that offers the best working environment for public servants dedicated in serving the Filipino people, and not because we are subjecting them to a meaningless procedure as some individuals are claiming.—**NORMITA L. VILLANUEVA, Ceso II, executive director, Career Executive Service Board, 3 Marcelino St., Holy Spirit Drive, Quezon City**

Taliban launches fading battle cry from ruined stronghold

NEWS ANALYSIS

Chris Otton

SPIN BOLDAK—Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar's spokesperson delivered what was ostensibly a battle cry for the embattled Islamic militia Wednesday, but at times his address appeared more like a requiem for a movement on its last legs.

Syed Tayyab Agha told reporters that the Taliban had a duty to carry on its fight to implement its unique brand of Islamic fundamentalism to the death.

But he started his press conference here in the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar province with a lengthy analysis of the circumstances which saw the militia seize power of more than 90 percent of Afghanistan after coming from nowhere in the mid-1990s.

He spoke of the lawlessness which pervaded much of the country after the brutal civil war between rival mujahedin factions and insisted that they had taken control of provinces only at the request of the people, despite the widespread rejoicing at their recent demise.

"This fighting...caused anarchy in the country and caused looting, killing and robbing of the innocent people of Afghanistan," he said.

"It was a time for responsible Muslim people to do something for the security of the people of Afghanistan.

"At that time the Taliban Islamic movement started a movement against the robbers, thieves and whores besmirching Islam."

The Taliban was only able to wrest control of cities and the countryside "with the help of almighty Allah and the support of the nation of Afghanistan," he said.

"When peace and security was brought to Kandahar...people of other provinces saw the situation and requested Taliban forces enter their provinces.

"This movement felt they should do something for the people because it is their Islamic and religious duty."

Differences with the United States and other Western powers which culminated in the current military assault began over its program to implement its version of the Shari'a law.

But even though the regime's power has now shrunk to a few southern provinces, its sense of duty to implement its program seems undiminished.

"The formation of the movement was not to get power but to bring Islamic law to our controlled areas. Still our responsibility remains on our shoulders."

Agha even had a word for the United States' role in the rise of the Taliban and its relationship with Osama bin Laden, now the world's most wanted man over his alleged role in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Bin Laden was regarded as an honored guest of the Taliban as he was "willing to give his blood" in the defense of Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation from 1979 to 1989.

But he added "America was also helping not only Osama but Muslims when they came to help in the jihad."

It was the first time that Agha had made himself available to foreign journalists, impressing those in attendance with his command of English.

He played down suggestions that Omar's call for the destruction of the United States in a recent BBC interview was tantamount to a call to battle to all Muslims.

"This is not a destruction or breaking of America to be done by Afghans. We hope that the almighty Allah will break America and other foreign powers fighting against Afghans."

AFP

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Inhalation anthrax kills 5th person

LUNDGREN

NEW YORK—An elderly stay-at-home woman died of inhalation anthrax Wednesday, with experts puzzled as to how she—and a New York hospital worker last month—could have come into contact with the deadly spores.

The death of 94-year-old Ottilie Lundgren brought to five the number of people to succumb to anthrax in the United States since early October.

Two of them were Washington area postal workers while another worked for a media company in Boca Raton, Florida.

New York hospital worker Kathy Nguen died of anthrax last month.

Lundgren rarely left her home in the rural town of Oxford, Connecticut, except to go to the hairdresser, and, like Nguyen, had no obvious links to media or political figures to whom the contaminated letters were addressed.

Hospital spokesperson Dorothy Gandy said Lundgren's condition had "very quickly deteriorated" after she was admitted on Friday to Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut.

Also Wednesday, Griffin Hospital president Patrick Charmel revealed that a local resident had brought an envelope containing a white powdery substance "which she felt was suspicious" to the hospital's emergency room.

"She unfortunately brought the envelope with her, which is something we don't encourage people to do," he said.

Derby Mayor Marc Garofalo told reporters later that the envelope tested negative for anthrax in preliminary tests, and that definitive results were expected Thursday.

Connecticut Gov. John Rowland on Tuesday noted the comparison between Lundgren's case and that of Nguyen, who died of the extremely rare disease on Oct. 31.

The Vietnamese immigrant, who was 61, also lived alone, and investigators were at a loss to retrace any steps that would link her with others infected with anthrax.

Rowland said at a televised news conference: "It's extraordinary if you think about a 94-year-old woman in Connecticut getting anthrax."

"It is a mystery," Griffin Hospital president Patrick Charmel echoed.

"Although some initial blood cultures that were performed showed that she had a bacterial infection consistent with anthrax," Charmel told CNN, "most people involved in her care . . . gave it a fairly low likelihood of probability just because it was very unlikely that somebody in Oxford, a fairly rural community, and somebody of her age and lifestyle would wind up contracting inhalation anthrax."

Governor Rowland told a news conference that investigators were trying to "trace the whereabouts of the woman over the past several weeks.

"Granted at her age she has not traveled a great deal, so that's why the suspicions lead directly to the possibility of mail cross-contamination of some sort," he said.

"This is all new territory for everyone in this field, and we don't know much," the governor said.

Nguyen worked in a basement storeroom of the hospital near a mailroom, but there was no evidence she handled any mail, and no traces of anthrax were found on her clothes, at her workplace, at her home or on the subway line she rode to Chinatown to shop at a specialty food store. *AFP*

US not ready for bioterror hit on farms, study reveals

WASHINGTON—Sparse US government funding has left federal animal health programs outdated, understaffed and ill-prepared for a potential bioterrorism attack on US farm livestock, according to a new study by industry and government officials.

The National Association of State Agriculture Departments (Nasda) said its 11-month analysis found federal animal health programs—including laboratories, border inspectors and communications systems—are in desperate need of attention and new funding of hundreds of millions of dollars.

"Infrastructure inadequacies, especially in terms of staffing and facilities, are now so deep that the (USDA) system cannot appropriately respond to a severe animal health crisis," the study said.

US cattle, hog, poultry and other livestock are a $100-billion industry but the federal government will spend an "appallingly low" $70 million this year on animal health monitoring programs, according to the group.

A bioterrorism attack using foreign animal diseases could be "easily introduced" to US livestock pastures and feedlots, which are typically along public roads, the report said.

Nasda represents state agriculture commissioners in 50 US states and four territories.

The report called for an overhaul of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is a key agency responsible for safeguarding the nation's 1 billion chickens, 106 million cattle and 59 million hogs.

Some 5,000 USDA inspectors are stationed at all US ports of entry to screen visitors, trucks and equipment for illegal animals and meat products that might carry disease. USDA veterinarians diagnose potential outbreaks of animal diseases and would play a key role in responding to a possible biological attack on the United States.

Congress must swiftly provide funds to recruit more experienced staff, expand animal research and improve USDA laboratories to shorten the response time, NASDA said. The extra funding could come as part of a massive US farm policy bill now before the US Senate, the group said.

The report did not call for a specific boost in funding for the USDA. But experts said achieving the recommendations could require hundreds of millions of dollars in government money.

For example, industry sources estimate it would cost more than $400 million just to upgrade the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa—the main USDA research facility on livestock and poultry diseases.

USDA will spend about $827 million on APHIS programs next year, up from $544 million this year. The entire department has an annual budget of about $76 billion. *Reuters*

Japan says $10B needed for Afghan reconstruction

WASHINGTON—The cost of rebuilding Afghanistan has been tentatively estimated at $10 billion, Japanese special representative Sadako Ogata said here Wednesday.

But the price tag appeared modest in comparison to the size of the task ahead, Ogata, the Japanese government's representative for Afghanistan, told reporters at the National Press Club.

Ogata, who attended an international meeting here Tuesday on the reconstruction of Afghanistan, said Japan would host ministers in the third week of January to address the matter.

She said she hoped participating governments would be in a position by then to make pledges of assistance.

Asked about the cost of a reconstruction program, Ogata said: "There was some informal indication (at Tuesday's meeting) that it might be 10 billion (dollars) in 10 years."

But "as a scale of assistance it does not seem very big to me," she added.

The Japanese official, formerly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said there was still no official price tag. Governments had yet to decide even on a basis for calculating the costs, she said.

Many difficulties lay ahead in rebuilding Afghanistan after the US military action, she said.

"Working in a failed state is not new," Ogata told reporters.

But "in this particular case we have military activity in a kind of war zone where the security situation is very patchy," she added.

"That, I think, is a very serious concern. In order to help the people who need help, humanitarian workers need to be there, but how do you secure their safety?"

Ogata said security arrangements were being discussed and she hoped a resolution would be found soon. *AFP*

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Nato to discuss closer security ties with Russia

MOSCOW—Nato Secretary-General George Robertson meets Russia's defense minister on Thursday to discuss a closer security relationship, building on a blossoming rapport rooted in the Kremlin's support for the war on terrorism.

Robertson meets minister Sergei Ivanov in Moscow after flying in from the southern city of Volgograd, where he was to give a keynote speech and lay a wreath at the site of the Soviet army's epic World War Two victory in the battle of Stalingrad.

President Vladimir Putin has been a stalwart supporter of the military campaign to hunt down those behind the Sept. 11 suicide airliner attacks on New York and the Pentagon.

His move to share Russian intelligence on Afghanistan and clear the way for the deployment of US troops in its Central Asia "backyard" has prompted talk of a deeper security relationship, founded on the fight against terrorism.

Arriving in Russia late on Wednesday, Roberston, a former British defense minister, said his visit came at a "historic moment" in Russia-Nato relations. "The terrible events of Sept. 11 have united people throughout the world," he said.

On Friday he meets Putin, who has broken with decades of Russian policy by making integration with the West a key strategy of his administration.

Putin has softened, but not dropped, his hostility to Nato's expansion up to Russia's borders as the prospect draws closer of former Soviet republics joining the western military alliance.

During Robertson's two-day stay, Russia will push for a new relationship that would give it a say in the decision-making process of the 19-nation alliance, which currently only consults Moscow after it has decided policy.

In a letter to Putin after the Russian leader's summit in the United States last week, British Prime Minister Tony Blair proposed setting up a new body to deepen cooperation.

Ivanov, a Putin confidant, said on Wednesday that the framework established four years ago as Nato undertook its first eastward expansion, had outlived its usefulness.

"The essence of our proposals is to create a completely new mechanism to act together as equals—Nato members and Russia.

"This would enable Russia to have, if you like, voting rights, the right to take decisions and abandon all current forms of cooperation within the Permanent Joint Council (PJC).

The mechanism is not really working. Everyone recognizes this."

The PJC accord, signed in 1997, provides for monthly meetings between Nato and Russia but lacks political clout.

Brussels diplomats say Blair's initiative appeared to have Washington's blessing since it followed last week's friendly summit between Putin and Bush in Texas.

US ambassador to Nato Richard Burns told reporters on Wednesday that there might be "even a possibility of joint decision-making" in future cooperation.

Putin has long held that international terrorism posed a bigger threat to global security than rogue rockets, a message that has now found a resonance in the West.

In an article published simultaneously in Russia's Izvestia and the International Herald Tribune newspapers, three security experts called for a new "Global Alliance for Security" to combat terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international crime and drug-trafficking. *Reuters*

THE CORTEGE of the late Malaysian King Sultan Salahuddin is pulled by the Malaysian Royal Guard as it leaves the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur Nov. 22. Malaysians of all races gathered under blazing sunshine on Thursday in homage to their late king, thronging the capital's Merdeka Square to watch the passage of his procession. REUTERS

Malaysians pay homage to late king

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysians of all races gathered in blazing sunshine on Thursday to pay homage to their late King Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, thronging the capital's Merdeka Square to watch the passage of his cortege.

Midday sun beat down on royal dignitaries, politicians and the country's ordinary Malays, ethnic Chinese and Indians, as a hand-drawn carriage bore the king's coffin through a solemn crowd of thousands.

A large screen in the square relayed television pictures of a Koran reading for the late king and images of an honor guard accompanied by attendants bearing parasols and ceremonial pikes.

The king, who died on Wednesday, was one of nine traditional rulers who take turns in the figurehead role.

A new Sultan of Selangor will be declared on Thursday, but Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said it will be four weeks before the country's Malay rulers meet to pick the next king.

Until then, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of the east coast state of Terengganu will be the acting monarch.

Flags flew at half-mast on what was a national holiday to start a week of mourning for the 75-year-old monarch, who died following an unsuccessful heart operation nearly two months ago.

The day began at the capital's national mosque, where brief prayers were made before the king's body was returned to lie briefly in state at the national palace, Istana Negara.

The monarch's coffin, draped in royal yellow, was placed on a raised dais with ceremonial guards at its four corners.

Black-clad Muslim clerics intoned prayers watched by a tearful Queen Siti Aishah, whom the late king married in 1990 when she was 19.

The popular sultan, who had four sons and six daughters from his earlier marriages, was the country's 11th constitutional monarch since independence from Britain in 1957.

In his youth he championed popular causes, traveling throughout the country in 1946 to protest against British rule before Malaysia finally won independence 11 years later.

He cycled to kampungs, or villages, to meet rural people, and during his 40-year reign of Selangor the state emerged as one of Malaysia's most dynamic. *Reuters*

1969 Papua vote a sham, UN officials say

JAKARTA—Wracked by separatist struggles across its vast chain of islands, Indonesia is being especially haunted by a referendum 32 years ago that former UN officials now admit was a sham.

The region in question is Irian Jaya, Indonesia's easternmost province, and the referendum legitimizing the Dutch colony's annexation is proving to be a source of intensifying separatist fervor.

UN officials who conducted the 1969 vote by tribal chiefs now say most citizens of the province covering the western half of New Guinea island were intentionally excluded from the process.

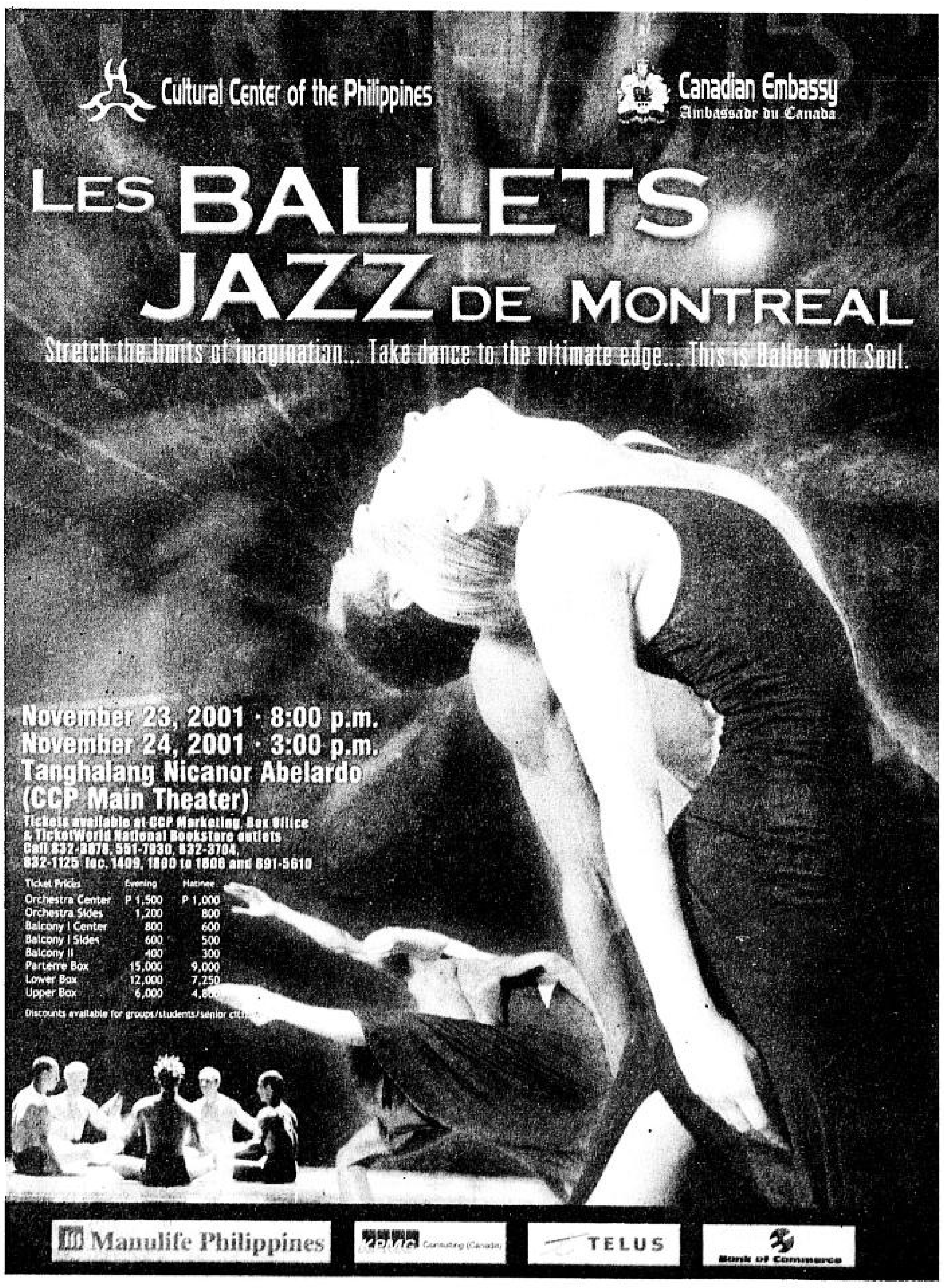
"It was just a whitewash. The mood at the United Nations was to get rid of this problem as quickly as possible," said Chakravarthy Narasimhan, a retired UN undersecretary general who handled the takeover.

"Nobody gave a thought to the fact that there were a million people there who had their fundamental human rights trampled," he said in a telephone interview from his home in Madras, India.

The ballot immediately sparked an uprising in the region, which is also known as Papua. Indonesia's army has failed in repeated attempts to crush the rebellion, and support for independence has strengthened since Gen. Suharto, Indonesia's dictator, was forced from office in 1998.

In the past, bloody protests have erupted on Dec. 1, the anniversary of Papua's 1961 independence proclamation. So Indonesian security forces are bracing for more trouble Saturday, the 40th anniversary of the proclamation.

Independence activists have been further galvanized by the UN-supervised referendum in 1999 that allowed nearby East Timor to break away from Indonesia and become independent after years of fighting Indonesian forces. They are demanding a similar plebiscite for Irian Jaya. *AP*



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Tonga orders out foreigners

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga—The tiny South Pacific kingdom of Tonga has tightened immigration rules, forcing out hundreds of foreigners, mainly Chinese shopkeepers.

The government announced on Thursday that two-year work visas will no longer be available to shopkeepers and other low-skill occupations.

"What we have done is to bring in a skills test that will affect all foreigners on work permits," Senior Immigration Officer Susana Fotu said.

"Unfortunately, it will mean that quite a few Chinese will not be able to meet the conditions."

There has been longstanding animosity between Tongans and Chinese immigrants, with a spate of assaults last year on Chinese people, including a rare armed robbery of a shopkeeper.

Immigration has also been a political issue, with dissident member of parliament Akilisi Pohiva and some Tongan shopkeepers campaigning against the number of Chinese in Tonga.

The shopkeepers accused the Chinese of undercutting their prices but Chinese shopkeepers said they bought their goods from the same wholesalers as their Tongan competitors.

No firm numbers were available on how many people would be affected, but officials said it would be "several hundred" in the capital, including a few Fijian shopkeepers.

"Tongans are quite capable of running and managing shops," the government said in a statement. *Reuters*

Macedonia moderates quit coalition gov't

SKOPJE, Macedonia—Macedonia's main moderate party walked out on the shaky "national unity" government on Wednesday, complicating Western-sponsored efforts to implement a peace accord with minority Albanian guerrillas.

Nationalists, who stand to consolidate power after the Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia's (SDSM's) exit, began excavating a site said to contain Macedonians executed by Albanians, stirring new confrontation with the disbanded rebels.

A police swoop to seize the alleged mass grave, which may contain up to 13 Macedonians, caused fighting 10 days ago.

"Our latest information... says that one body has been found already," Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski, a nationalist hardliner, said of the dig in a rebel-inhabited valley near the northwestern city of Tetovo.

Journalists were barred from the scene. Police video released later showed bulldozers and Interior Ministry investigators at work, watched by international monitors including an official of the UN war crimes tribunal.

The dig stirred new confrontation with the rebels, who grabbed guns and set up roadblocks, fearing attack by police commandos who sealed off part of the valley on orders from radical nationalist Interior Minister Ljubco Georgievski.

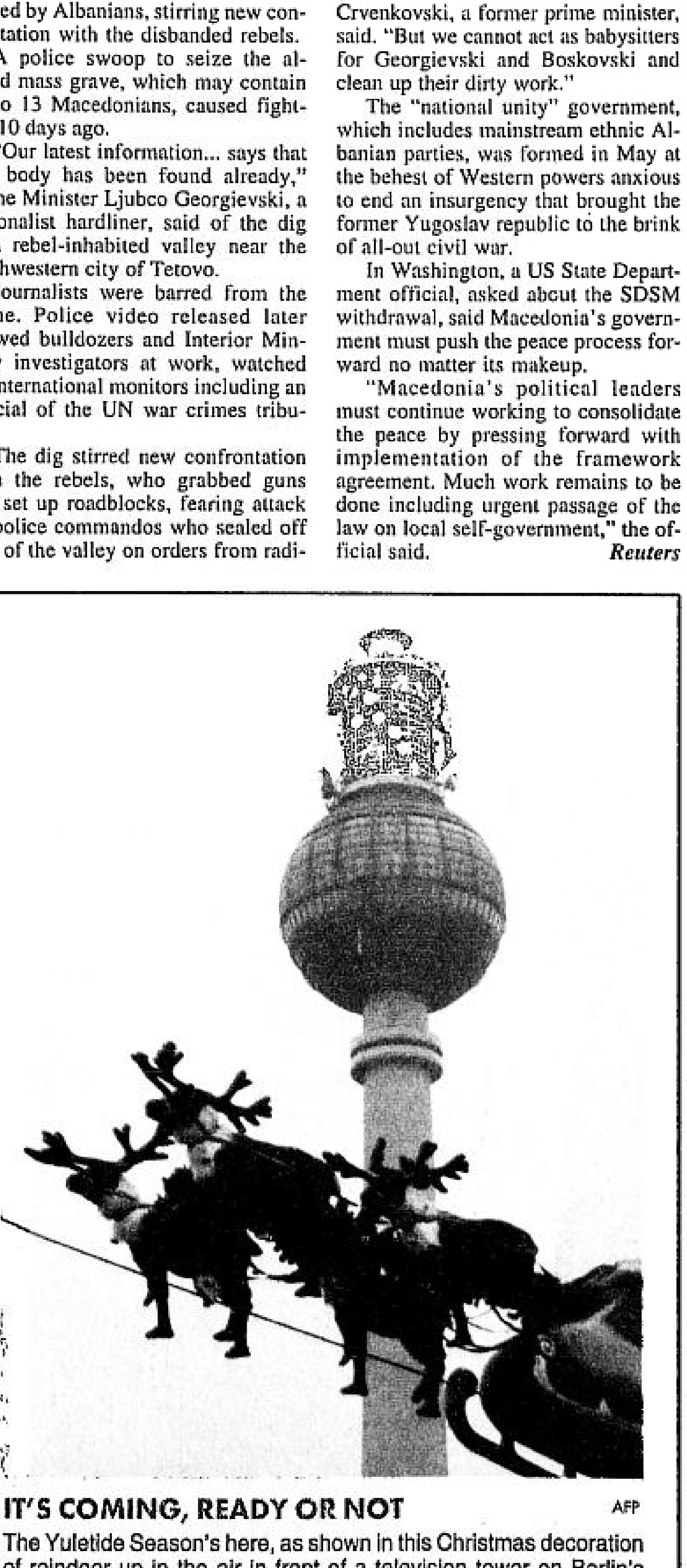
Diplomats who brokered an August peace accord fear the moderates' departure from government will give too much power to nationalists like Georgievski and Boskovski, seen as more eager for revenge than reconciliation with the Albanians.

"It's true that the international community has urged us to remain in the government," SDSM chairman Branko Crvenkovski, a former prime minister, said. "But we cannot act as babysitters for Georgievski and Boskovski and clean up their dirty work."

The "national unity" government, which includes mainstream ethnic Albanian parties, was formed in May at the behest of Western powers anxious to end an insurgency that brought the former Yugoslav republic to the brink of all-out civil war.

In Washington, a US State Department official, asked about the SDSM withdrawal, said Macedonia's government must push the peace process forward no matter its makeup.

"Macedonia's political leaders must continue working to consolidate the peace by pressing forward with implementation of the framework agreement. Much work remains to be done including urgent passage of the law on local self-government," the official said. *Reuters*



IT'S COMING, READY OR NOT AFP

The Yuletide Season's here, as shown in this Christmas decoration of reindeer up in the air in front of a television tower on Berlin's Alexander Square Nov. 21.

Alarmed China bans commercial fishing on Yangtze for first time

SHANGHAI, China—Alarmed by a sharp drop in fish populations, China will issue its first-ever ban on commercial fishing along its longest river, the Agriculture Ministry said Thursday.

Authorities hope the three-month ban will help reverse decades of overfishing and pollution on the Yangtze River, said an official in the ministry's fishing resources office. He gave only his surname, Chen.

Chen said dwindling fish stocks threaten not only the livelihood of thousands of fishermen, but also one of the planet's rarest animals—the Yangtze River dolphin.

Less than 100 of the dolphins are now believed to survive in the Yangtze River, their only natural habitat. It is one of only four freshwater dolphin species in the world.

The ministry decided to issue the ban after the river's commercial fishermen reported their annual take had fallen to below 100,000 tons a year, Chen said.

That's less than a fourth of what Yangtze fishermen routinely caught in the 1950s, he said.

Also, very few of the fish they now catch are adults. Most are undersized juveniles—a sign that fish populations are not being given a chance to regenerate, he said. *AP*

Menem vows to win back presidency

MENEN

BUENOS AIRES—Former Argentine President Carlos Menem, freed from house arrest linked to an arms scandal, vowed on Wednesday to win back the presidency in 2003.

Menem's release from five months of house arrest was widely expected to unleash a political storm within his opposition Peronist Party, which some analysts said could mean a respite for unpopular President Fernando de la Rua as he struggles with a burgeoning debt problem.

Menem, with his beauty queen wife by his side, spoke passionately from the balcony of the governor's office in his home province of La Rioja on his first full day of freedom after an Argentine court threw out charges he helped smuggle arms to Croatia and Ecuador in the 1990s.

"Despite all the lies, despite all the defamation . . . I will return to be president of Argentina," Menem told a crowd of thousands of cheering supporters.

The ambitious 71-year-old, who ruled Argentina from 1989 to 1999, still heads the Peronist Party despite an attempt by his former vice president and Sen.-elect Eduardo Duhalde to have him ousted from the job last week.

Menem had no mercy for any of his rivals or his successor.

"In 1989 I received a country in ruins and I had to rebuild it and I will do it again in 2003," Menem said, insisting De la Rua should stop blaming the near bankrupt country's problems on his administration.

"This is not a bad government, this is a terrible government," he said in predicting he would defeat all Peronist presidential candidates as he did in 1988 to win the party's nomination. *Reuters*

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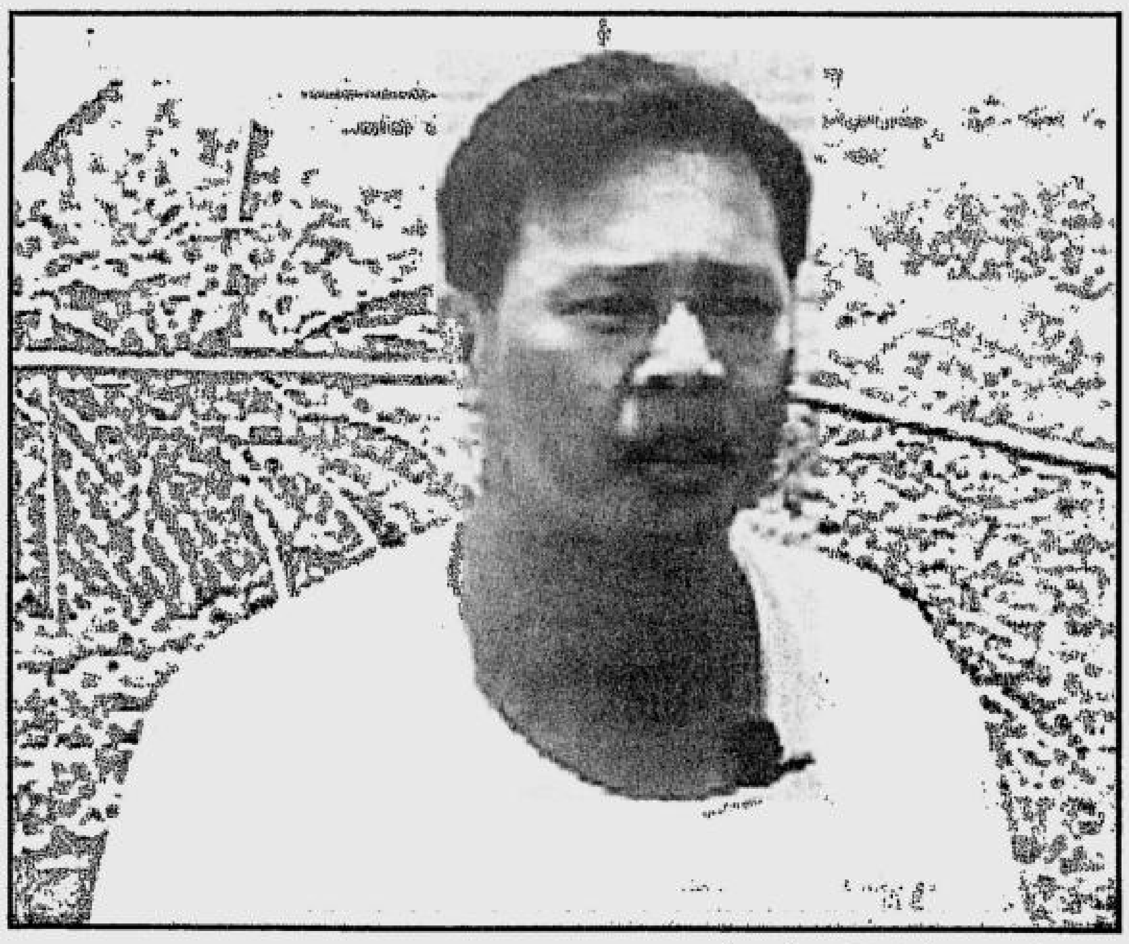
MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT FOR THE CANDIDACY OF DATU IBRAHIM PAGLAS III FOR GOVERNOR AND DATU BEN LOONG FOR VICE GOVERNOR OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AND APPEAL FOR HER EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO TO ADOPT A HANDS OFF POLICY IN THE NOV. 26 ARMM ELECTION



DATU IBRAHIM "TOTO" PENDATUN PAGLAS
ARRM Governor (Candidate)

For many years after its inception, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) symbolized a political solution to the Mindanao Problem that failed to produce the desired results because of leadership crisis.

In spite of the hundreds of millions of pesos poured by the national government into the ARMM, basic services remained elusive to the people, and poverty and deprivation resulting in intermittent bloody conflicts marked its years of existence.

We, the leaders of the Province of Cotabato, believe that as the next door neighbors of the ARMM, any problem confronting the region – especially in the area of peace and order – will affect us.

WHEN THE ARMM SNEEZES, COTABATO CATCHES COLD if we are to borrow a cliché.

While we are not directly involved in the Nov. 26 elections, we believe that the outcome of this political exercise will affect our lives and the lives of our relatives living inside the ARMM area.

It is in view of this that we declare our full support to the candidacy of Datu Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III for ARMM Governor and his running mate Ben Loong for Vice Governor.

Being the immediate neighbors of Maguindanao Province where Toto Paglas comes from, we witnessed how this young and unorthodox Muslim political leader transformed Datu Paglas town from an area notorious for holdup and highway robberies into a model community where Muslims and Christians live side by side in peace.

The competition between Muslims and Christians that he encouraged was not in the battlefield but in the farms where they tried to outdo each other in producing more from their rice and corn fields.

Toto Paglas may not hold sterling scholastic credentials and may not be very articulate and eloquent but his achievements as a community leader, which earned for him the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines Award – the first and only Filipino Muslim awardee – are proof of his potentials as an ARMM leader who could bring about peace through progress and development in the region.

The argument that the selection by the administration of the other candidate is because of a commitment to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) does not hold water.

The government has only one commitment and that is to ensure that the Filipino people living in the ARMM will enjoy peace and progress.

We support Toto Paglas because the banner that he carries does not bear the emblem of a revolution or a religious coat of arms. He stands as a new brand of leader who could rally the people behind the banner of peace through brotherhood and progress. **KAPATIRAN AT KAUNLARAN TUNGO SA KAPAYAPAAN.**

We are appealing to the President, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to adopt a hands-off policy in the ARMM elections and direct the self-proclaimed political strategists and operators from Malacanang not to interfere in this purely Mindanaoan activity. As it is, these so-called Malacanang political strategists have caused us so much chaos and mayhem.

It is time to let the people of the ARMM and the people of Mindanao decide what is best for them and their children.

Signed this 20th day of November 2001 in Kidapawan City, Cotabato Province, Philippines.

MANNY F. PIÑOL
Cotabato Governor and
Chairman, Confederation of Mindanao
Governors and City Mayors (CONFED)

JESUS N. SACDALAN
Vice Governor and SP
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HON. SOLEMA JUBILAN
HON. CELESTINO RAPACON
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas, Northeastern Mindanao and Palawan will experience widespread rains with occasional gusty winds. Coastal waters of these areas will be rough. Bicol region and the rest of Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Bicol region. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 22° Lo 11°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 19°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Widespread Rains	Hi 29° Lo 26°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 27°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Widespread Rains	Hi 27° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/23/01

Group exposes DENR racket

MADDELA, Quirino—A group of furniture traders here has accused officials and personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of allowing the abuse of a government forestry program to make money for themselves.

Members of the Truly Reawakened and Enlightened Environmental Supporters (Trees) said DENR personnel are tolerating the use of falsified documents to certify the availability of sources for narra.

The cutting of narra in the forests of Quirino is covered by an agreement between the DENR and two people's organizations, the Ilongot Livelihood Association Inc. (Ilai) and the Wasid Ilongot Tribal Association Inc. (Witai), both based in Nagtipunan.

Under the agreement, cooperative members, who are commonly forest occupants, are allowed to harvest narra from the forests of Nagtipunan and sell a limited volume to furniture makers.

Pablo Galapon, Trees director, said this is happening despite the depletion of a cooperative's allowable cut of narra.

"They (DENR personnel) do all these in exchange for protection money," Galapon said.

He claimed that the narra furniture business in Quirino has long been a milking cow for DENR personnel, with the help of DENR programs and people's organizations.

But Herculiano Maulit, community environment and natural resources officer (Cenro) of Nagtipunan, denied Trees' accusations.

"These are all fabricated allegations intended to malign us and our personnel," Maulit said in Filipino.

Nicasio Pascua, provincial environment and natural resources officer (Penro), said he has directed the concerned DENR officials to submit a written explanation on the charges of the Trees members.

Trees also denounced the supposed harassment by DENR personnel in an alleged attempt to fork out protection money from the narra furniture business.

"They (DENR men) know that we (furniture makers) would bite into it (the scam) because this is our main source of livelihood," Galapon said. "They thought they could always hold us by the neck."

Since July, DENR officials here have allegedly refused to issue documents to Trees members for the purchase of narra supposedly because of exhausted sources.

The group's members found out, however, that the Nagtipunan Ilongot Multi Purpose Cooperative (Nimpco), also a local furniture industry organization, never ceased shipping out their narra products.

Maulit said they have not been issuing shipping documents to Trees because Maddela town is outside the jurisdiction of the DENR in Nagtipunan.

"Maddela has just been transferred to the DENR in Aglipay, so we have stopped supplying them with narra. They should be asking (DENR) Aglipay for the papers (of narra purchases)," he said. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor spends P3M on fountain, irks critics

KIDAPAWAN CITY—What's the price of peace of mind?

If you ask Mayor Luis Malaluan of this city, it's P3 million.

That much the local government here spent to build what it said was a one-of-a kind "world-class" fountain.

"This project will help people . . . find time for themselves. It's fun to stay here, they will surely forget their problems." Mayor Malaluan told the INQUIRER.

Funded by the office of the mayor through the city tourism office, the fountain features colorful lights and sprouting water dancing to "soothing" music.

"Wonderful," Jason Bañas, a third year high school student at the Central Mindanao Colleges said.

The fountain has become a standout among local landmarks at the city plaza here and has even overshadowed a monument of Jose Rizal, which it encased.

Although Malaluan appears to be very proud of the project, opposition members of the city council frowned over what they said was a wrong way to spend the city's funds.

Councilor Bernardo Piñol said he still could not believe a fountain would be made a priority when "there are problems that need more attention from (the mayor)."

He said farm-to-market roads, which could have help boost agricultural production were put in the sidelines for a year now because of alleged lack of funds.

Malaluan said the fountain could help the local government divert the youth's attention from bad things but Piñol said the mayor's line of thinking was distorted.

"What's the logic there," he said.

Despite the opposition's tirade, Malaluan appears to be unfazed.

" I am the mayor and that's my priority. I believe this will help the people," he said.

Malaluan also said the city would also now be known as "a City of World-Class Fountain aside from being known as City of Fruits and Highland Springs." *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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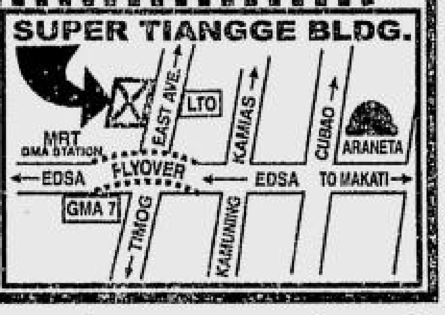

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L200 ENDEAVOR XT SRP: P720,000

Term		12	18	24	36	48	60
D/P	Net D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
20%	123,000	52,280	36,177	28,847	20,713	16,697	15,122

LOW MONTHLY PLANS

L200 STRADA SRP: P999,000

Term		12	18	24	36	48	60
D/P	Net D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
50%	497,000	43,616	30,181	24,085	17,294	13,941	12,625

L200 ENDEAVOR XT SRP: P720,000

Term		12	18	24	36	48	60
D/P	Net D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
50%	357,500	31,373	21,710	17,325	12,440	10,028	9,082

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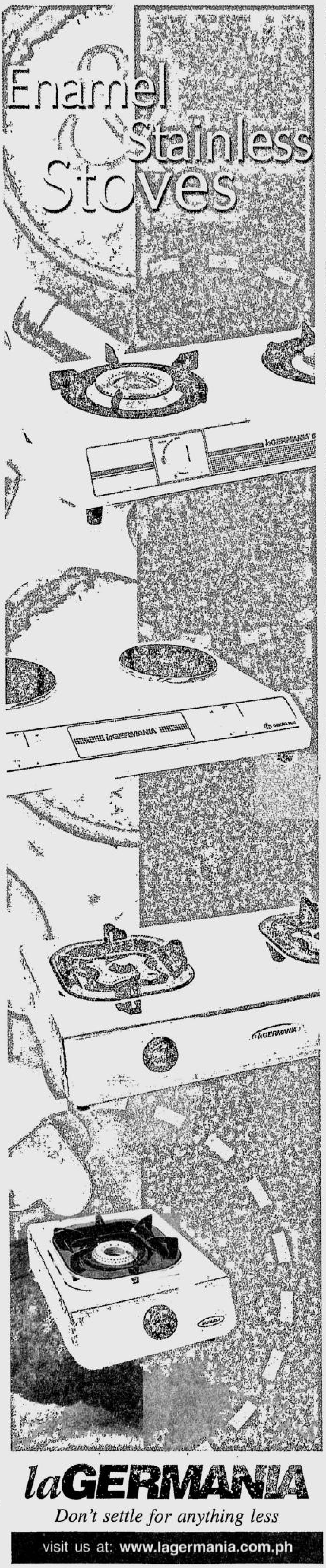
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RARE PHENOMENON

Mud flow scares village folk

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—"My father told me not to go near that hill because it might explode," said 10-year-old Bryan, pointing to a steaming hilltop that spewed mud.

"I thought at first that the hill was emitting cement," said Bryan's friend Rey, 9.

While they do not know what this phenomenon is all about, they expressed fears that this could be a sign that a nearby volcano would explode.

The mud cascading down the slopes of this hill in Sitio Pulangbato, Barangay Malabo, Valencia, pours into a 50-meter stretch of road that connects Dumaguete City with the Philippine National Oil Company and the National Power Corporation power plants in Barangay Puhagan, Valencia. Once in a while, the PNOC sends a grader to "sweep" the mud off the road.

Pulangbato is famous for its hot springs. Before the start of the geothermal operations of the PNOC and NPC, the area was a favorite camping ground for people who, among other things, would boil eggs in the hot springs.

Barangay captain Nestor Timosan of nearby Caidiocan said he is worried over this natural phenomenon. "This is unusual and this is my first time to see it."

When told of the unusual activity, a team from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) went to the area and observed.

In their report to Valencia Mayor Rodolfo Gonzalez Jr., Phivolcs chief planning officer Delfin Garcia and observer Henry Villaflores allayed fears of a volcanic eruption.

They said the tons of lahar-like material that are coming out every now and then from the springs and overflowing into the road below are plain "weathered limestone" which usually come out during typhoons and are carried down the slopes due to heavy rains.

Negros Oriental, like the rest of the Visayas and many parts of Mindanao and Luzon, was recently hit by tropical storm "Nanang" that brought floods and claimed hundreds of lives, especially in the worst hit island-province of Camiguin.

Restituta Cuada, 75, a long-time resident of Barangay Malabo, affirmed the Philvolcs finding. She said the cement-like mud comes out only during rains.

"I have lost count of the number of times that I've seen this phenomenon," she said in Cebuano.

At the height of Typhoon "Ruping" in 1985, the hot "weathered limestone" covered the road up to the thighs of persons who had no choice but to wade through it.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1953 Series of 2001

2 gov't troopers slain, 2 injured in reb ambush

MAGSINGAL, Ilocos Sur—Two government soldiers were killed while two others were wounded Monday when they were ambushed by New People's Army rebels in an upland village here, police said.

Supt. Fidel Cimatu, Ilocos Sur police director, said two teams of Army soldiers were conducting combat patrol in a mountainous area in Barangay Maratodo when they chanced upon 20 to 30 NPA rebels.

The two soldiers were killed instantly. Their names were withheld pending notification of their relatives.

Pfc. Jose Asug and Cpl. Reynaldo Aquino were wounded and taken to the Metro Vigan Cooperative Hospital in Vigan City. They were later airlifted to the V. Luna Medical Center in Manila.

Cimatu said initial military reports showed that an undetermined number of rebels were wounded in the firefight that occurred at 6 a.m. on Monday.

A team from the police and Army was sent to the ambush site to hunt the rebels, he said.

"This was just a chance encounter. I don't think it was part of a concentrated effort to wage a fight against government troopers," Cimatu told the INQUIRER by phone.

Frequent sightings of NPA rebels were reported in Sinait town in Ilocos Sur, Nueva Era town in Ilocos Norte and Abra. The rebels hold their mass bases in the towns of Magsingal and Cabugao, Cimatu said.

Two months ago, the military overran a rebel training camp in Barangay Baluarte in Salcedo, Ilocos Sur, and seized firearms and anti-government documents.

During a briefing of the provincial peace and order council in Ilocos Norte last month, the military described the NPA's strength in the Ilocos region as "remarkably increasing."

In Baguio City, members of the Kabataang Makabayan-Datako, a youth arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA operating in the Cordillera, painted the walls along the roads in Barangay Pacdal to mark the 37th founding anniversary of KM-Datako.

They also installed red flags, bearing the insignia of the organization, the hammer and sickle, at the City Hall compound. The flags were later removed by the police. *Cristina Arzadon and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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▲ Role of Strategic Power Utilities Group (SPUG) in the Restructured Environment	**Hon. Lorenzo S. Marcelo** Officer-in-Charge, SPUG
▲ Restructuring: Bane or Boon (Utility's perspective: CEPALCO)	**Mr. Ramon C. Abaya** Chairman, CEPALCO
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NGO 1st Consuelo awardee

A PEOPLES' organization based in Jolo, Sulu, that has helped empower the seafaring Badjao community is making history by becoming the first recipient of the 2001 Consuelo Award.

Patti J. Lyons, president and CEO of the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation (Consuelo Foundation for short), said the Sanyang Multipurpose Cooperative would be honored in ceremonies on Nov. 29, the death anniversary of the benefactress of the foundation bearing her name and after whom the award was named.

The Consuelo Awards was launched this year to recognize outstanding Filipino nongovernment organizations (NGOs) that have made a significant difference in transforming the lives of disadvantaged Filipino children, women and families.

In bestowing the first ever Consuelo Award on the Sanyang Multipurpose Cooperative, the panel of judges said that the organization truly exemplified the dedication and courage of a group of people who overcame centuries of prejudice, discrimination and neglect to bring new hope and a better quality of life for their children and their community.

Over the last nine years, Sanyang has not only become an integral part of the Badjao community, but also an empowering entity. It has particularly distinguished itself in its implementation in the past five years of the Badjao Youth Development Program.

Group backs regular PAL flights to Clark

THE GOVERNMENT call for the Philippines Airlines to schedule regular flights to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport gained support from a nongovernment organization.

The Project Filipino Movement (ProFil) in a statement yesterday said urging PAL to take notice of Clark could not have come at a more appropriate time considering that its owners, as members of the MIA-NAIA Service Operators Association (Maso), are asking the government to stop the construction of the NAIA Terminal 3 and calling, instead, for the development of the DMIA.

"Should PAL agree to schedule flights to (the) DMIA, it would give muscle to their preposition that the Clark airport is better than NAIA," the ProFil statement said.

"(The) NAIA is being refurbished as a real international airport (at par) with other leading international airports in the world. The government invited private-sector participation in the development of a world-class terminal, showcasing the beauty of the country," Virgilio Ilagan, executive director of Pro-Fil, said.

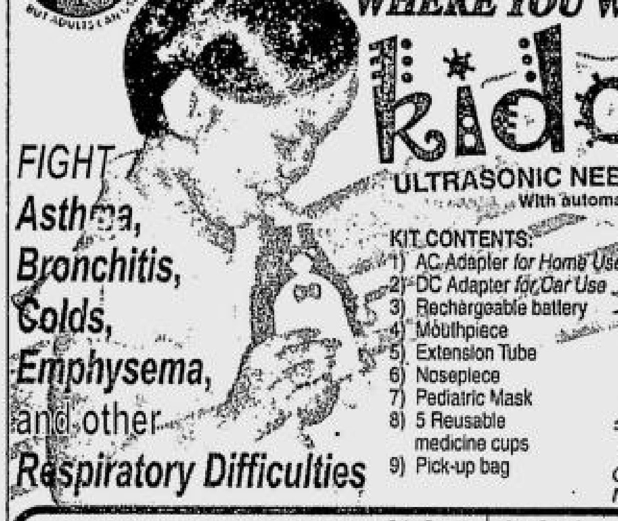
"But government efforts to improve our economic infrastructure have been met with strong resistance by business groups whose billion-peso profits are being threatened by moves to improve the country's infrastructure," Ilagan said.

"While the government is exerting all its effort to shore up economic growth, there are some elements who are trying to derail the new terminal project," Ilagan said.

While construction of the NAIA 3 terminal continues since it started last June, Ilagan expressed fears that the disinformation campaign against the project may affect its completion by December next year.

The new international airport, which will feature the latest state-of-the-art equipment, is located on a 65-hectare site adjacent to the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City.

When fully operational, the NAIA 3 terminal can accommodate an annual capacity of 13 million passengers, compared with the five million capacity of the existing terminal. The fully automated and computerized terminal can handle a maximum influx of 33,000 passengers a day.



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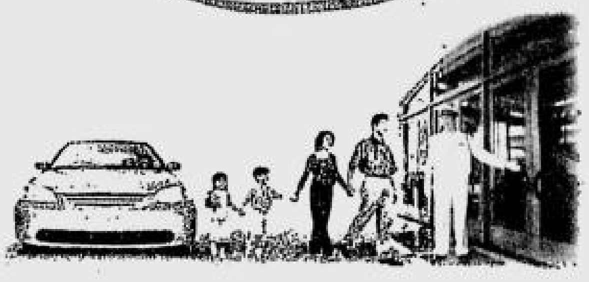

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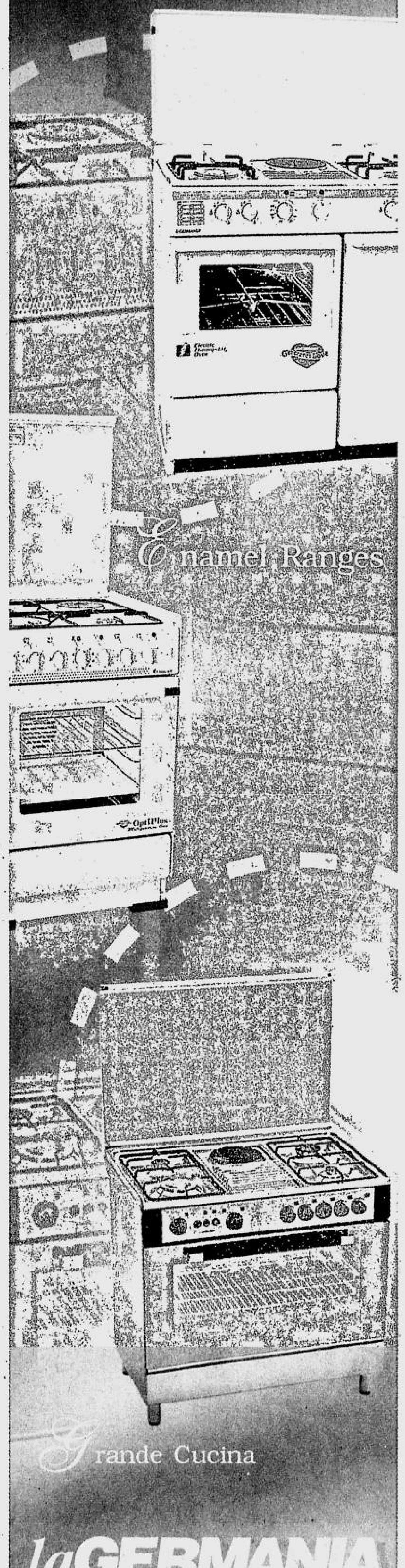

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Church urges Gloria to stop Bt-corn tests

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Diocese of Marbel has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the proposed field experiment of genetically engineered corn by seed giants Pioneer Hi-Breed and Monsanto Phils. in two barangays in Koronadal City.

Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez of the Diocese of Marbel, in his letter to the President, claimed that the planned field trials would be illegal as the National Committee on Bio-safety of the Philippines (NCBP) allowed only one field test site for gene-altered corn in South Cotabato.

The NCBP identified Barangay Maltaña in Tampakan, South Cotabato as a site for Bt-corn field experiments.

Gutierrez added that despite strong opposition from local residents, the two multinational seed firms are seemingly bent in conducting further Bt-corn field tests in Barangays Topland and Paraiso in Koronadal City.

As early as March, residents of Barangays Paraiso and Topland signed a petition opposing the planned field testing in the area, but this reportedly fell on deaf ears.

Gutierrez said on June 27, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato passed a resolution declaring Koronadal City GMO-free.

"I believe that any field trial that will be initiated at this time in any site (in South Cotabato) is considered illegal since it did not go through the required processes and approval," an excerpt of the bishop's letter said.

Gutierrez urged the President to stop the planned field experiments of Bt-corn while its environmental, health, social, economic and ethical impacts have yet to be determined.

The bishop criticized the NCBP for its failure to provide balanced information regarding GMOs and for serving as a conduit in promoting technology that could be harmful to humans and the environment.

On July 29, more than 300 protesters from the farming sector and cause-oriented group swarmed the field testing site of Monsanto in Maltana, Tampakan and uprooted fully-grown Bt-corn plants.

Monsanto then threatened to file charges against the protesters, who were mostly members of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

The Church is also leading the war against GMOs in Isabela.

Roman Catholic Church leaders led by Bishop Sergio Utleg of the Diocese of Ilagan and priests in 35 towns and two cities in the province renewed their campaign against Bt-corn farming and coal mining.

In a pastoral letter read during Mass last week, Utleg said Bt-corn farming and coal mining have been denying "the blessings of life for millions of people."

"The church is not against development and modern technology. Rather, we want to ask our people and leaders: For whom is development? Who is to benefit from these so-called development projects and modern technology? Development must serve the needs and promote the progress of all people," Utleg said.

Fr. Gregorio Uanan, chancellor of the Diocese of Ilagan and leader of the Anti-GMO Multi-Sectoral Alliance of Isabela, assailed Monsanto-Phils. for disclosing that Bt-corn has recorded a "high yield" in its field tests in Alinguigan 2nd in Ilagan, Carulay in Echague town, and Villaluna in Cauayan City, all in Isabela.

Monsanto is the leading proponent of Bt-corn field tests in the country.

"Naturally, it has a high yield at first . . . but eventually the corn borer gets immune, as researches say, and farmers would end up losing income," Uanan told the INQUIRER.

Dr. Arnold Estrada, Monsanto-Philippines product development manager, has reported a "very high yield" in its field trials, a better output than what was recorded in General Santos City.

The tests, Estrada said, were proven to be a success as the firm has confirmed the resistance of Yieldgard corn against Asiatic corn borer and evaluated the corn's economic value and better grain quality.

He said Monsanto would not debate with Church leaders.

He maintained, however, that Bt-corn has been proven safe after thorough testing for toxicity, nutritional values and feed values. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Chefs start work on 'King Carrot Cake'

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BIGGEST
King
CARROT
CAKE
Nov 2

BAGUIO CITY—The supple hands of Baguio Country Club chef Art Nucaza was busy Wednesday creating Benguet's King Carrot cake in time for the province's 101st founding anniversary on Nov. 23.

"This is the biggest cake that I have done so far and I am so excited," Nucaza, lead baker of the cake, told reporters here Wednesday.

As early as Nov. 14, BCC chefs Nucaza, Pio de Guzman and the food and beverage department of the BCC have started planning and preparing ingredients for the King Carrot cake, the main feature of Benguet's anniversary celebrations.

Nucaza said they had finished baking the carrot cake in three days. The cake, which measures 12 feet by four feet and has a thickness of 1 1/2 feet, was baked in blocks and would be transported to the Benguet provincial capitol today.

To produce the cake, said to be the largest carrot cake in the country's history, the chefs had to bake 190 carrot cake blocks measuring 18 inches by 26 inches and with a thickness of one foot.

"It took me three days to bake the cake. Maybe that would sum up to 16 hours a day of work just for this cake alone," Nucaza told the INQUIRER.

Samuel Torres, BCC's food and beverage manager, said their original plan for the carrot cake was heavier than what the Benguet Tourism Council and the regional Department of Tourism had approved.

"Initially, the proposal for the budget was P500,000, but (the BTC and the DOT) thought that it was a very big amount to spend for the cake," Torres said.

Organizers thought that only 300 to 600 kilos of carrots would be used as the main ingredient, but Torres said they had to use 1,200 kilos of carrots.

After peeling and grating, about 400 kilos of carrots remained and were used in the cake.

Aside from the carrots, Nucaza used 450 kilos of white sugar, 280 kilos of all purpose flour, 100 grams salt, 300 grams of cinnamon powder, 300 grams of baking powder, 300 grams of baking soda, 180 grams of spices, 150 grams of spices, 2,400 fresh eggs, 300 liters of corn oil and 30 kilos of walnuts.

For the fondant and carrot icing, Nucaza used 35 kilos of sugar, 1 1/2 kilos of glycerine, 2 1/2 gallons of glucose and 10 kilos of lemon.

The carrots, all freshly picked and young, were bought from Benguet farmers.

A replica of a carrot, made of bread and coated with icing, will be placed on top of the King Carrot cake.

"But to make it look like a king, we will crown it with a tribal headgear to make it look purely Cordilleran. I think we should do it Cordillera style," Torres said.

The cake will be displayed for public viewing at 1 p.m. on Nov. 23.

"We are so happy that the BCC was commissioned to do this project. We will like to assure everyone that the cake will be delicious like the ones we make here," Nucaza said.

The cake is expected to feed 5,000 people, but Nucaza said they made it sure that at least 6,000 people can sample the cake.

Earlier, the plan to bake the biggest carrot cake became a big joke among Ibalois.

In the Ibaloi dialect, "biggest" sounds like *biges*, the local term for worm.

This lexicographical lesson is also a joke in Benguet, which aims to bake the "biggest carrot cake" in Philippine history as a sequel to Baguio City's record-holding feat when it tossed a salad large enough to be consumed by 5,000 guests last Sept. 16.

The Department of Tourism already re-packaged this proposed visitor-drawing gimmick for Benguet's charter anniversary on Nov. 23 to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The biggest cake turned into an (overnight) joke because *biges* is worm in the dialect and that meant we were about to prepare the largest worm cake in history," Purificacion Molintas, DOT Cordillera director, said.

"We now call it the 'King Carrot Cake,' and that is how we labeled it to President Macapagal-Arroyo. It will be as huge as we predicted," Molintas told the INQUIRER.

Ms Macapagal, who spent the All Saints' Day holiday in Baguio City, had gamely pitched Baguio and the Cordillera's tourism program to her fellow vacationers.

"This is part of (the President's) tourism economics," said Molintas.

Baguio drew a 99-percent increase in visitor arrivals during the long weekend, based on a DOT survey. According to the survey, eight of the city's 16 large hotels were fully booked from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4.

"Through the *cañao*, we know we can ask blessings from Kabunian (Supreme Being) to pray for a good harvest of carrots and other vegetables for next year," Balangcod said, noting a poor harvest of carrots this year.

The King Carrot Cake will be displayed for public exhibition at 1 p.m. on Nov.23 at the session hall of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Benguet.

The cake will also use 825 fresh eggs, spices, cinnamon, all-purpose flour, butter, refined sugar, cream cheese and corn oil and other "secret ingredients," said Mignon de Leon, Benguet Tourism Council chief. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Attention All Foreigners
Interested in staying longer in the Philippines...

The Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA)
Will hold a free briefing session on

November 27, 2001 (Tuesday)
At
2:00 P.M.

Marriott Hotel
(Rosal-Adelfa Function Room)
Cebu City

On how you can get special residency status.
We'll tell you about getting Permanent Residency:
The special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV);
The application procedures and requirements.

Look for : Lory; Noehl: Orly

* * * * * * *

Special Briefing session will also be held on:

December 5, 2001
Wednesday, 10:00 A.M.
Philippine Retirement Authority
29/F Citibank Tower
8741 Paseo De Roxas, Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
Philippine Retirement Authority
29/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, 120000 Philippines
Tel. 84812 to 21 Fax: 8481411 or 15
Website: www.pra-visa.com
E-mail: inquiry@pra-visa.com.

For reservation call:
Ms. Beth Cordova at Tel. No. 8481420-21
Ms. Caring Laconsay Tel No. 8481418
Ms. Lory E. Morgia Tel No. 8481414-15
Ms. Noehl D. Bautista Tel No. 8481412-12

QUEZON METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
Lucena City Tel Nos. 71-33-52; 71-28-55

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) under the 20th Yen Credit Package to finance the cost of the Quezon Metropolitan Water District (QMWD) Water Supply System Comprehensive Improvement Program. QMWD will finance the cost of the construction of a reinforced concrete ground reservoir as part of its equity contribution to the project.

The QMWD is inviting all interested constructors having a valid CATEGORY B PCAB License and Classification for Medium A Water Supply to submit their Pre-qualification Statements (Pre-C) for the construction of one (1) 2000 cubic meters reinforced concrete ground reservoir; estimated construction cost in PhP6.1M.

Pre-qualification documents can be obtained by interested contractors at the PBAC Secretariat, QMWD office, Red-V, Ibabang Dupay, Lucena City upon presentation of a copy of valid PCAB Contractor's License and payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00.

Accomplished Pre-C forms must be received at the QMWD office on or before 5:00 p.m. of **December 11, 2001**. Documents submitted late will not be considered and will be returned. All applicant contractors will be notified in writing of the status of the Pre-C Evaluation. Only-pre-qualified contractors will be issued bid documents. Bidding date will be announced later.

QMWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informality in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by PBAC, is the most advantageous to the QMWD.

Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information at Tel-fax No. (042) 373-3692 and/or inspect the Pre-C forms at the PBAC Secretariat.

(Sgd.) ENRICO B. PASUMBAL
General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 21, 23 & 26, 2001)

Cop chief, 2 officers sacked after NPA raid

By Cynthia A. Borgueta
PDI Visayas Bureau

PALO, LEYTE—The police chief and two other policemen of San Jose de Buan in Samar were ordered relieved Tuesday in the wake of Saturday's raid on the town by suspected New People's Army rebels.

Two civilians were killed in that raid.

Chief Supt. Nardito Yoro, Philippine National Police director for Eastern Visayas, ordered the immediate relief of SPO3 Samuel Rosales, the police chief, and PO2 Nelson Lapiceros and PO1 Artemio Rebato.

Lapiceros and Rebato were the only policemen on duty when the rebels raided the police station inside the municipal hall about 5 a.m. last Saturday.

The two policemen were disarmed of their M-16 rifles and later taken hostages. They were freed unharmed about 1 p.m. of the same day at the town's outskirts.

Yoro also directed Supt. Felipe Portacio, Samar police director, to place under investigation the seven other police officers who were absent during the raid.

Rosales, based on a report submitted by Portacio to Yoro Tuesday, was absent when the rebels stormed the police station.

Two civilians—Cecilio Obinguar, father of PO1 Jonathan Obinguar of the San Jose de Buan police, and Alex Padillo, a former Army soldier—were also taken from their homes by a separate group of rebels.

They were later found dead in a remote village of the town.

Their bodies were found in the mountain village of Catud-an, about 10 kilometers from the town proper.

Portacio's report said the rebels killed Obinguar "because he was not sympathetic to . . . their movement."

Padillo, on the other hand, was executed because he was allegedly the mastermind of the killing of a farmer in 1998.

At least 10 police officers from the 810th Police Provincial Mobile Group (PPMG) stationed in Calbiga, Samar, were sent to San Jose de Buan as reinforcements.

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RC-319, Powerplant Mall (next to Power Bowl)
Rockwell Center, Makati City
Phone: 898-2426 / 898-2427 Fax: 898-2408

dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

Make It PHILIPPINES!

Anti-Dumping Case No. 00-01

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION FILED BY REPUBLIC-ASAHI GLASS CORPORA-TION (RAGC) AGAINST THE FINAL FINDINGS OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION ON THE ANTI-DUMPING CASE AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF CLEAR FIGURED GLASS FROM PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PROC)

x---------------------------------------x

RESOLUTION

Before the Department of Trade and Industry is the Tariff Commission's Position on the Motion for Reconsideration filed by Republic-Asahi Glass Corporation (RAGC) against the Commission's Final Findings on the anti-dumping case against the importation of Clear Figured Glass from People's Republic of China (PROC) which was the basis of the Department of Trade and Industry's Final Order issued on 15 July 2001, pursuant to paragraph (1) of Sec. 301 of the Tariff and Customs Code as amended by RA 8752 (Anti-Dumping Act of 1999) and Sec. 16 (a) of its Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Tariff Commission has recommended that the instant Motion for Reconsideration be denied for lack of merit.

The Commission after evaluation of the issues raised in the Motion for Consideration filed by Republic-Asahi Glass Corporation (RAGC) found no merit to reverse their earlier decision that the element of price difference was not established. Thus, the injury suffered by the domestic industry was due to causes other than dumping. The Commission issued its position on 12 October 2001 (which was received by the Department on 16 October 2001).

WHEREFORE, IN VIEW THEREOF and pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 20 paragraph (e) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 8752, the Department of Trade and Industry hereby issues a Resolution denying the said Motion for Reconsideration for lack of merit.

Let copies of this Resolution be published immediately in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

RESOLVED.

07 November 2001.

ADRIAN S. CRISTOBAL, JR.
Acting Secretary

(PDI--Nov. 23, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

4-A First NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS.

NAME OF TAX DELINQUENTS	TAX DECLARATION NUMBERS	DATE UPON W/O THE TAX BECAME DELINQUENT	AMOUNT
1.) FAVILA ET AL, AURORA & EUFRACIA			
Classification: Land Bgy. San Dionisio	E010-05006	1981-2001	41,835,860.40
2.) ASUNCION, BARBARA S.			
Classification: Land	E013-01344	1979-2001	30,430,608.16
Barangay Sto. Niño			
3.) DE LEON, RAFAEL		1979-2001	9,213,338.54
Classification: Land	E013-01650		
Barangay Sto. Niño			
4.) BAUTISTA, FELIX			7,251,701.14
Classification: Land Bgy. San Dionisio	E010-05302	1979-2001	
Land Bgy. Sto. Niño	E013-01308	1979-2001	
Land Bgy. Sto. Niño	E013-01639	1979-2001	
5.) EDWARD R. BACON PHILS. INC.			
Classification: Land Comm'l.	E006-08514	1979-2001	5,911,985.00
Barangay Marcelo Green			
6.) CHIOS, INC.		1979-2001	
Classification: Land Comm'l.	E009-09505		5,065,900.00
Barangay San Antonio			
7.) JULI INC.			
Classification: Land	E013-01357	1979-2001	4,584,232.10
Barangay Sto. Niño			
8.) NERY MARTIN			4,323,761.76
Classification: Land Bgy. La Huerta	E005-01035	1979-2001	
Building Bgy. San Dionisio	E010-01798	1985-2001	
Land Bgy. Sun Valley	E014-00332	1996-2001	
Barangay San Dionisio			
9.) BAUTISTA ET, AL TEODORICO			
Classification: Land	E005-01133	1979-2001	4,101,477.90
Barangay La Huerta			
10.) BELO ET AL, FLORENCIO P.			
Classification: Land	E015-00259	1979-2001	3,738,655.66
Barangay Tambo			
11.) L.G. MATHIESON DEV CORP.			3,199,219.70
Classification: Land Bgy. La Huerta	E005-01599	1979-2001	
Land Marcelo Green	E006-02682	1979-2001	
12.) DANDAN, MAGNO			
Classification: Land	E005-01092	1979-2001	3,015,562.10
Barangay La Huerta			
13.) CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES INC.		1988-2001	
Classification: Machineries	E001-05468		2,482,446.44
Barangay B.F. Homes			
14.) GUEVARRA, OCTAVIO			2,059,371.22
Classification: Land Bgy. Don Bosco	E003-02060	1979-2001	
Land Bgy. San Dionisio	E010-05518	1979-2001	
15.) GATCHALIAN, JUAN			
Classification: Land	E010-05497	1979-2001	1,906,172.30
Barangay San Dionisio			
16.) DE LEON, CATALINO			1,598,634.44
Classification: Land	E013-01230	1979-2001	
Land	E013-01659	1979-2001	
Barangay Sto. Niño			
17.) JIMENEZ, FRACTOUSA			
Classification: Land	E010-05520	1979-2001	1,503,839.42
Barangay San Dionisio			
18.) DE LEON ET AL, FELICULA			
Classification: Land	E008-12507	1979-2001	1,438,826.96
Barangay Moonwalk			
19.) LORENZANA, SOLOMON			1,342,893.16
Classification: Land	E010-01722	1998-2001	
Building	E010-01724	1998-2001	
Building	E010-01726	1998-2001	
Building	E010-01727	1998-2001	
Improvement Comm'l.	E010-01723		89,835.09
Improvement Residence	E010-01725		7,467.96
Barangay San Dionisio		SUB-TOTAL	1,440,196.21
20.) GARCIA, EUGENIO			1,369,070.68
Classification: Land Bgy. Don Bosco	E003-18648	2001	
Building	E003-02814	2001	
Land San Dionisio	E010-05485	1979-2001	
Building Bgy. Tambo	E015-01763	1979-2001	
21.) ADARLO, EVA S.			916,252.30
Classification: Land	E010-09219	1994-2001	
Building	E010-09220	1994-2001	
Building	E010-09221	1994-2001	
Barangay San Dionisio			
22.) ANCHOR POLYTEX MFG. CORP.			
Classification: Land	E014-02036	1997-2001	879,750.00
Barangay Sun Valley			
23.) BELLA REALTY ENTERPRISES			
Classification: Land	E011-10272	1979-2001	836,286.76
Barangay San Isidro			
24.) DOMINGA OLIVA		1973-2001	
Classification: Land Residential	E016-02043		468,533.92
Land Residential	E015-02044		324,109.04
Barangay Tambo		SUB-TOTAL	792,642.96
25.) GARCIA CONSTANCIO L.			767,788.94
Classification. Building	E010-01757	1985-2001	
Building	01760	1985-2001	
Land	06649	1985-2001	
Barangay San Dionisio			
26.) JOSE AGUEDA			
Classification: Land	E010-05531	1979-2001	654,722.88
Barangay San Dionisio			
27.) JIMENEZ LORENZO & FE			615,688.32
Classification: Land Bgy. San Antonio	E009-09435	1990-2001	
Building	E010-02415	1986-2001	
Barangay San Dionisio			
28.) KALAW, PURA V.			
Classification: Land	E004-01103	1993-2001	408,375.12
Barangay Don Galo			
29.) DY, WILLIAM			372,461.06
Classification: Land	E015-03403	1997-2001	
Building	03404	1997-2001	
Land	03405	1997-2001	
Building	03406	1997-2001	
Barangay Tambo			

AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE DISTRAINT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, PAYMENT OF THE TAX WITH SURCHARGES, INTERESTS AND PENALTIES MAY BE MADE. IN CASE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE BASIC REAL PROPERTY TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX LEVIED UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY TAXATION UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIODS AS PROVIDED IN **SECTION 250 ON PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS** AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, OR WHEN DUE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL SUBJECT THE TAXPAYER TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AT THE RATE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT PER MONTH ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OR A FRACTION THEREOF, UNTIL THE DELINQUENT TAX SHALL HAVE BEEN FULLY PAID: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL THE TOTAL INTEREST ON THE UNPAID TAX OR PORTION THEREOF EXCEED THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS. FURTHER, AND UNLESS THE TAX, SURCHARGES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE TAX IS DUE EXCEPT WHEN THE NOTICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OR SPECIAL LEVY IS CONTESTED ADMINISTRATIVELY OR JUDICIALLY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF **CHAPTER 3, TITLE II, BOOK II OF THE CODE**, THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AND THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WILL BE VESTED IN THE PURCHASES, SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO THE RIGHT OF THE DELINQUENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY PERSON HAVING LEGAL INTEREST THEREIN TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF SALE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY BE DISTRAINED TO EFFECT PAYMENT, AND/OR LEVY UPON THE REAL PROPERTIES OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER TO SATISFY THE DELINQUENCY.

(Sgd.) **LIBERATO M. CARABEO**
ICO-CITY TREASURER

(PDI – Nov. 23 & 30, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COMMUNITY RURAL BANK OF ALLEN (Northern Samar), INC. (CRBAI)

1. Starting **November 23, 2001**, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Community Rural Bank of Allen (Northern Samar), Inc.**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to premises of the closed bank from **November 23** to **December 5, 2001**, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After **December 5, 2001**, all depositors can file their claims personally or thru mail at the PDIC located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest Identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Community Rural Bank of Allen (Northern Samar) Inc. is on April 1, 2003. After **April 1, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Nov. 23 & 24, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE) has approved the application of **G.K. GOH SECURITIES (PHILS.), INC.** for voluntary suspension of trading operations.

Accordingly, G.K. Goh Securities (Phils.), Inc. has endorsed and forwarded all its accounts to its designated broker, **AB CAPITAL SECURITIES, INC.** to handle the distribution of shares to their beneficial owners.

Thus, effective 3 December 2001, kindly course all your concerns and queries to:

Ms. Georgina Rodriguez - Head of Settlements
Ms. Haydee Calte - Settlements Assistant

AB CAPITAL SECURITIES, INC.
Third Floor, Asian Plaza
#328 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 819-3151 • Direct Line 817-2713
Fax No. 810-3797

(PDI – Nov. 23, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
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Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO BID

SSS EMPLOYEES RICE REQUIREMENT FOR THE 1ST QUARTER OF CY2002, BULK PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FOR THE 1ST SEMESTER OF CY2002 AND RENOVATION OF SSS SAN FERNANDO BRANCH

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting the following:

1. Bidders for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,700 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the 1st quarter of Year 2002 with the following specifications:

• Degree of Milling	:	Well Milled Rice (WMR)
• Moisture Content	:	14% (maximum)
• Grade Specifications	:	Headrice-90% to 95% (minimum) Broken-10% to 5% (maximum)
• Packaging	:	50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene
• Labeling	:	With front & back markings
• Delivery Terms	:	Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order (P.O.)

2. Bidders for the Bulk Purchase of various Office Supplies and Materials for the 1st Semester of CY2002.
3. General Contractors for the renovation of SSS San Fernando Pampanga Branch Office.

   The scope of work covers civil, architectural, electrical, mechanical and other miscellaneous works to complete the project.

   Prospective bidders should have valid license and classification issued by the Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB) including registration and classification of contractors for government infrastructure.

PCAB License	-	Category "D" or "C" General Building
PCAB Registration	-	Building Small "A" Electrical Small "A" Mechanical Small "A"

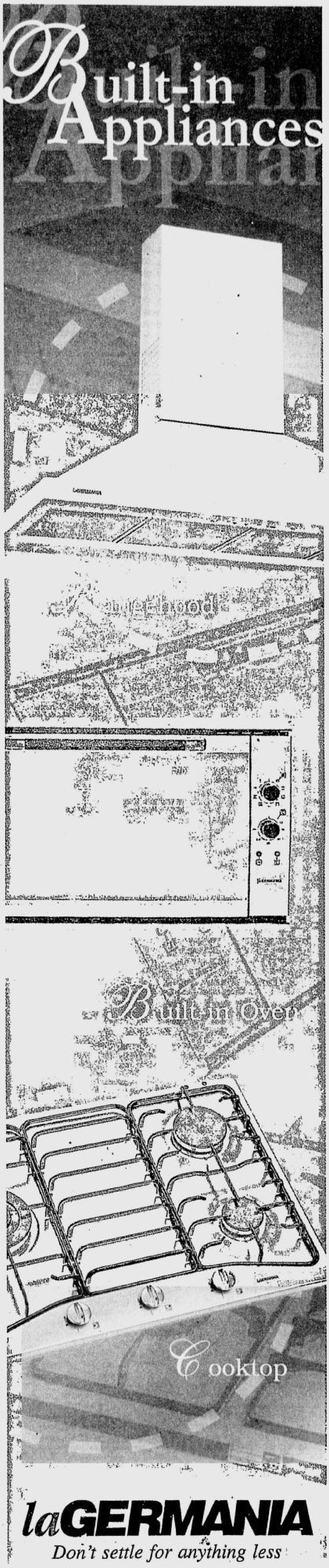
List of pre-qualification requirements for items 1 to 3 must be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 2379/2380. Pre-qualification forms for item 3 will be issued upon presentation of original and valid licenses, size/range and kind of project issued by PCAB. Below is the deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents, at the same address.

Item No.	Deadline
1	December 12, 2001
2	December 13, 2001
3	December 14, 2001

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the System. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the System guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G. GASIS**
Assistant Vice President
and Acting Chairman, Bids and
Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 23, 2001)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AFP: Misuari may have fled to Sabah

(From page A1)

bly that it withdraw its recognition of Misuari as MNLF leader.

And in Bacolod City, former President Fidel V. Ramos, the man who brought Misuari to the peace table in 1996, denounced the MNLF founder as "the Osama bin Laden of the Philippines." Misuari,
governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, launched the attacks on military and police camps in Sulu on Monday, in a bid to stop the ARMM elections on Nov. 26.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva told a Senate hearing that an "intelligence asset" had informed the military that Misuari had fled the island of Jolo for the neighboring Malaysian state of Sabah and was trying to reach Saudi Arabia.

The general said the military could not confirm the report and cautioned that it might be a ploy to divert the attention of forces hunting for Misuari on Jolo.

In a briefing for defense reporters, Villanueva said much the same thing.

"I cannot confirm the report, it's still subject for verification. I don't know the exact date and time. That is the character of Misuari, he would push his men and then abandon them," he added.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Southern Command, shared the same view.

"If it's true that he's escaped, then it's an indication that he is abandoning his forces and advancing his personal interest over the others," Cimatu said.

"We are no longer surprised if he really abandoned his men although we are still verifying such information," he added.

Abdurahman Amin, an aide to Misuari, would not confirm that his leader had fled but insisted he was "in a very safe place and away from any physical harm."

He also would not comment on allegations that Misuari had been wounded in military air strikes the day after Misuari's forces mounted a fresh revolt.

Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, said that Malaysia would be certain to inform the Philippines if Misuari set foot there, because of the "good relationship" between the two countries. The Malaysian military denied Misuari was in Sabah, but ordered an increase in air, navy and police patrols.

But the military spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, said that if Misuari did escape, it would not be a problem. "If he escapes, there are other ways to get him, like diplomatic means," Adan said.

Press Undersecretary Manuel Sanchez said the government "will make all diplomatic and legal representations" with the Malaysian government if Misuari had indeed escaped to Malaysia.

Sanchez said Misuari would have to be brought back in order for him to face the rebellion charges filed against him in court yesterday. The judge subsequently issued an arrest warrant yesterday.

"The recommendation of the judge in the case is that no bail shall be given to Gov. Nur Misuari," Interior Secretary Joey Lina said.

Two ranking MNLF leaders, however, said Misuari could still be in the country.

They said Misuari had resorted to bribing MNLF leaders in Sulu, by as much as P100,000 each, in exchange for their support and loyalty and to ensure his security.

"He is always concerned (about) his safety," Maj. Gen. Abdul Sahrin, chief of the MNLF general staff intelligence services and chair of the MNLF joint monitoring committee, told the INQUIRER.

Sahrin is one of the members of the Council of 15.

Maj. Gen. Abuambri Taddik, deputy secretary general for military affairs of the MNLF central committee, said Misuari could be in Karawan, Indanan, near Maimbung and Parang towns.

"When you have money, you still retain some degree of power," Sahrin said.

Air strikes

For the fourth straight day, government planes pounded suspected rebel positions in the mountains of Jolo.

"At least six camps have already been taken over" in the municipalities of Patikul, Parang and Indanan in the interior of the island, Cimatu told reporters.

The sixth camp was overrun early yesterday and the other five over the past two days, he said.

"We're hitting their camps and it would be better if Misuari is there," Cimatu said.

Cimatu gave no figures on casualties in the latest fighting, but said a body count showed 48 rebels had died in earlier clashes while "more than 100" others were estimated to have been killed in strikes by helicopter gunships and bomber planes.

At least four soldiers and seven civilians have also been killed.

Cimatu said military operations, including air strikes on Misuari's men, were continuing in Jolo. "The operation will continue until we get Misuari. Nobody is above the law," Cimatu said.

"The mission of our troops is to neutralize the Misuari-led renegade faction of the MNLF and prevent them from doing what they did last Monday," Ermita said.

"Another mission that they are undertaking there is to ensure that elections can take place peacefully and orderly on Monday," Ermita said of the ARMM elections on Nov. 26.

Asked about the prospect of protracted combat in Sulu, he replied, "It depends on whether the renegade troops of the MNLF faction of Misuari can sustain the fighting."

"If they want to fight the AFP, the AFP is prepared for it. I don't know how the Misuari faction of the MNLF can sustain a long fight with the government," he added.

Adan said "around 8,000 individuals" who fled the fighting that started Monday have remained in evacuation centers, some run by the government.

OIC support

After the government briefing, envoys representing the Committee of 8 said they would recommend to the OIC general assembly to withdraw its support for Misuari as leader of the MNLF, which enjoys observer status in the OIC.

"The government of the Republic of the Philippines recognizes the leadership of the 15-man council of the MNLF, not Misuari," Malaysian Embassy charge d'affaires Hamza Zainal told foreign affairs reporters.

"If that's the Philippine position then we would go by it," Zainal added.

The Committee of 8 has already expressed concerns that Misuari's adventurism would result in a failure of elections on Nov. 26. Aside from Malaysia, the other members of the committee are Indonesia, Senegal, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Bangladesh and Brunei.

Vic Lecaros, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, said the meeting was to "make sure all the OIC ambassadors are clear about the Philippine government's compliance with its commitments or role under the peace agreement."

Malacañang is backing the slate led by Parouk Hussin, leader of the MNLF's 15-man council which ousted Misuari as MNLF chair and who is running for ARMM governor in the Nov. 26 election.

Ermita brushed off suggestions that the Hussin group had been proven to have no effective control over the MNLF. He noted that the Hussin group had control over MNLF integrees in the military who fought alongside the AFP and PNP last Monday.

Limited uprising

On the main island of Mindanao, where Misuari also has armed followers, military officials described the situation as stable.

"There are no overt actions by any of the MNLF followers to create trouble. We believe this uprising is limited to the Misuari faction," Adan said.

But Cimatu warned that intelligence reports indicated that Misuari's forces would resort to "terrorism" to disrupt the upcoming elections.

"We are anticipating this. We are anticipating bombings and terrorism during Monday's elections," Cimatu said.

Ermita also said the AFP had prepared for a possible spillover of the conflict to other areas in Mindanao. The possibility that the fighting in Sulu would spill over to other areas in Mindanao is "very great," he said.

"Such conflict can be made to spread in accordance with the determination of troublemakers. So the possibility is there but the government has to be on guard for this," Ermita said.

Mahendra Majilon, one of Misuari's spokesperson, said efforts to contact their leader or any of his followers in Jolo had been futile because of lack of any mobile phone signals.

"That's why we really have no idea what is the true situation there," he said.

Majilon also said that it was possible that Misuari could have been wounded. "With the heavy bombardment, it could be true. But that's normal in a time of war," he added. ***With reports from Cynthia Balana; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Allan A. Nawal, Julie S. Alipala-Inot, Alexander M. Young, Rolly A. San Juan and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP***

₱700,000 worth of bombs a day

BY PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A RANKING air force officer disclosed that bombs worth an estimated total of P2.8 million had been dropped on renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari's strongholds since Monday, even as other military officials stressed that the continuing pursuit operations against Abu Sayyaf bandits will not be hampered by the anti-Misuari campaign.

"The cost for a day's bombing operation is $1,200 using 260-pounder bombs," Brig. Gen. Nelson Eslao, commander of the 3rd Tactical Air Operations Wing of the Philippine Air Force based at the Edwin Andrews Airbase in Zamboanga City said yesterday. He did not specify how many bombing runs had been made in four days of air strikes.

He only said that at least three OV-10 bombers had been flown since MNLF members loyal to Misuari attacked Jolo on Monday.

"The Air Force is now developing its rapid response capability, wherein our F-5 jets can immediately respond to any big war in any place of Mindanao," Eslao said.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, the top general in the south, said the operations against Misuari would "not affect our operation" against the Abu Sayyaf.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen holding US missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipina nurse Deborah Yap in Basilan are being pursued by some 5,000 soldiers.

Military officials said Abu Sayyaf fighters in nearby Jolo island had struck up an alliance with Misuari.

"We have enough troops patrolling Basilan to get the Abu Sayyaf. We have deployed additional forces in both island provinces," Cimatu said.

His deputy, Colonel Francisco Gudani, said troops had identified Abu Sayyaf positions in Basilan's jungles and were close to rescuing the hostages.

The three hostages are the remnants of an Abu Sayyaf kidnapping spree that began in May when the rebels seized three Americans and dozens of Filipinos, executing several including Peruvian-born US citizen Guillermo Sobero.

Gudani said Abu Sayyaf ranks in Basilan had fallen from 1,200 in June to about 657, with at least 127 Abu Sayyaf killed and 202 captured in clashes with the military.

The INQUIRER also learned that 100 Misuari loyalists are set to surrender anytime this week. ***Allan A. Nawal, Julie S. Alipala, Alexander M. Young, Rolly A. San Juan with a report from Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

PMS head quits Gloria Cabinet

(From page A1)

Arroyo.

She also enjoyed working with the rest of the presidential staff, specifically mentioning Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, legal adviser Avelino Cruz and his assistant, Marita Jimenez.

She had only good words for Romulo and Cruz.

"We have lunch together, to consult each other. So, there's no intrigue, no ego (tripping). The working relationship here is good."

Resignation letter

Garchitorena, whom Ms Macapagal handpicked for the highly coveted post even before her inaugural on Jan.20, will stay on only until the end of the year.

For her replacement, she said, she has submitted a short list to the President.

Garchitorena could not be persuaded even by Romulo and other colleagues in Malacañang to stay for just one more year.

In her resignation letter submitted to the President on Nov.8, she said she was not comfortable with government and wanted to return to her NGO work.

When the INQUIRER asked what was it about government that she did not like, Garchitorena said: I don't know. It's just that in civil society, in the private sector, you're very free and people would rarely comment as much.

"*Dito parang every galaw mo may babatikos, may pupuna* (Here your every actions gets criticized). And of course this is very unfair. And it really just kind of wears you down."

"This is something I knew that's part of the territory. But it still doesn't make it as pleasant as (working) in civil society, in the private sector," she went on.

"Well, not really," she said when asked if she would stay if there were no intrigues.

"*Any feeling ko, don ako mas hiyang* (I feel I'm more at home in the private sector). Here it was a duty, an obligation in fact. Unlike in civil society (where) you have greater freedom to say and do what you want."

Rumors

Her resignation invariably sparked speculations of infighting among the presidential staff.

One such rumor is the alleged animosity between the Ateneo faction of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and the Assumption faction of the President.

Crazy

"That's crazy," Garchitorena reacted, laughing.

"This is one of the problems of public service. I don't know what it is in this culture. Why does everything have to have a hidden motive?," she said.

She also denied that she was pressured into resigning.

And Garchitorena found no signs of the "snake pit" as former presidential spokesperson Jerry Barican had described Malacañang. Garchitorena succeeded a much-maligned PMS chief, Leonora De Jesus, the so-called "Dragon Lady."

"Usually there's a snake pit and (power) blocs if the leader is not strong. Here we have absolutely none of that," she said.

Strong leadership

Interviewed by the INQUIRER shortly after she joined the Cabinet, Garchitorena said she liked what she saw so far in the President's working style.

Asked if she still thought so now, "Oh yeah, I still do," she said.

"She provides very strong leadership. She's very focused and dedicated. I think she's the best person for the job.

"In fact. That's why I'll continue to lead the De Soto study (on anti-poverty programs). And I will continue to support her," she added.

Although she had to contend with the usual lobbying for government positions, she claimed she did not have any major disagreement with Ms Macapagal over the appointments.

"No, she's very, very open and she's very professional so I really enjoyed working with her," she said.

How did she handle the lobbying?

"If the pressure is great, it depends if the person is not qualified then we tell the person or if there is a case against him. And if they're not qualified for the specific position they're being endorsed to, we try to look for another position where the qualifications match.

"I think by and large the appointments have been very good," she said.

Garchitorena said she will return to Ayala Foundation, where she was the managing director of Corporate Affairs before she joined the Cabinet.

She said she had expected the media to pick up her resignation earlier this month after Ms Macapagal announced that she will lead the De Soto study.

That was the President's way of saying that she would be leaving the Cabinet, she said.

Other resignations?

Garchitorena is the second Cabinet official to resign.

Presidential adviser on special concerns, Paul Dominguez, resigned earlier this month, saying he wanted to return to the private sector.

But the President asked him to stay until the end of the year to wrap up his work with the revival of the BIMP-Eaga.

Dominguez will however remain special envoy to Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia.

With Garchitorena's resignation, rumors quickly flew that two other Cabinet members, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, would follow soon.

"It is just plain rumor and I do not have any idea how it was hatched. I am not resigning from my post and I have not entertained any thought of leaving the Cabinet," Boncodin said in a statement yesterday.

"I will only resign once I feel I am no longer effective in my job and the President does not trust me anymore," she added.

Matibag security aide arrested by NBI

(From page A1)

already reported for work at the Comelec at the time Cinco was slain.

The director for education and information was on her way to work early on Tuesday morning, together with her son and her sister, when two men on a motorcycle stopped their car.

A gunman then stepped down and shot her. Her son Carlo was also hit in the shoulder, but her sister Marian Jayme escaped shaken but unhurt.

Manzano was nabbed as he was about to leave the Comelec office on Wednesday night.

Comelec challenge

Noting that the notorious internal wrangling at the election body could well be at the bottom of Cinco's death, Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo issued a challenge to all seven commissioners: "Everybody should resign."

He said the "correct solution" to the infighting in the Comelec was the resignation of all top officials.

"If that is the only way to clear things up, then that is fine with me. I will be happy to resign," Benipayo said after his briefing with the education and information department staff.

He said he would be the first to tender his resignation if everybody agreed to quit the Comelec even amid the forthcoming elections in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

But Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, Benipayo's archrival, refused to take him up on the dare, saying it was a "very irresponsible" thing to do.

Tancangco said the officials should instead discuss ways for the commissioners to work together harmoniously despite their differences.

"When there are problems, we confront (them) and find solutions," Tancangco said in a phone interview. "But the problem is, he (Benipayo) is the problem."

"Besides, they are the ones who have not yet been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments," Tancangco said. Benipayo's appointment by President Macapagal-Arroyo still needs to be confirmed by the powerful bicameral CA.

Matibag's files

Matibag, identified with the faction led by Tancangco, was dismissed from the Comelec last week after refusing to report for work at her new assignment. She has since been barred from entering the premises.

Yesterday, however, the lawyer appeared at the Comelec main building, and even entered the EID office to get some of her files which she had left in the office.

She arrived at 10:52 a.m. with two former aides of former Comelec Chair Harriett Demetriou and her driver Mario Villanueva, aboard an L200 van.

The Comelec security logbook showed Matibag came in only six minutes after Benipayo entered the same building, along with Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, who came for the en banc meeting yesterday morning.

"I just wanted to check up on friends," Matibag told Tancangco over the phone after her friend called to confirm if she had indeed visited the Comelec.

She told Tancangco that her visit yesterday should also disprove reports that she was fleeing to the United States to evade authorities investigating Cinco's murder, as some had speculated.

"She said she would be 100 percent willing to cooperate with police if they invite her for questioning," Tancangco said of Matibag.

Matibag again reiterated that she had nothing to do with Cinco's murder as it would be "stupid" of her to do anything harsh because she knows she would be the prime suspect.

"Benipayo is spreading lies to condition the minds of people that Comelec infighting was the reason for Cinco's killing," she said.

'Dagdag-bawas'

Matibag said Cinco's death could also be related to the *dagdag-bawas* cases being uncovered by the Comelec, although she did not elaborate. She only said that Cinco was once seen crying upon emerging from Benipayo's office.

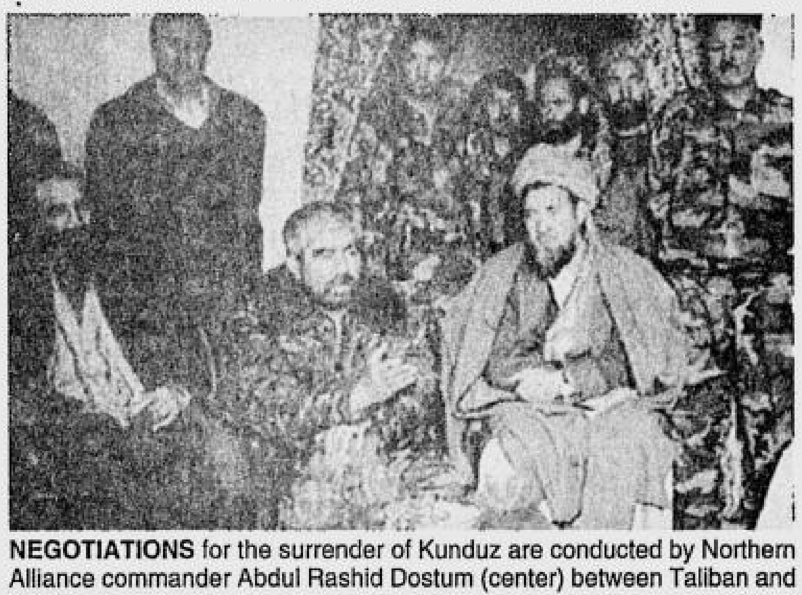
Manzano, a clerk at the EID, said he acted as a bodyguard for Matibag after she asked him to do so.

"When she learned that I know how to drive, and that I own a gun, she invited me to accompany her, which I did several times," said Manzano, who has worked at the Comelec since 1997.

Besides the Comelec infighting angle, the WPD's Task Force Cinco is also looking at two other possible angles.

The police are looking into reports that Cinco interfered in an illicit affair of two of her employees. They are also checking reports that some casual EID employees were angry at Cinco for not renewing their contracts when she took over the department.

On the day Cinco was killed, her sister executed a sworn affidavit alleging that Cinco had received threats from a certain Matibag, also with the Comelec.



NEGOTIATIONS for the surrender of Kunduz are conducted by Northern Alliance commander Abdul Rashid Dostum (center) between Taliban and Alliance leaders.
REUTERS

Taliban negotiating surrender of Kunduz

(From page A1)

fate of the city to the west a chance to bear fruit.

At the talks being held in Mazar-e-Sharif, one Northern Alliance official said the Taliban declared themselves ready to surrender the city but were negotiating the details.

But other officials said the surrender—especially that of several thousand Arab, Pakistani and Chechen fighters loyal to Osama bin Laden—was less clear.

"Things are confused, and every minute they are changing," said Shah Jan, an aide to alliance commander Gen. Mohammed Daoud.

"They're still negotiating," he said, but added Kunduz hadn't surrendered "yet."

As negotiations were going on, a US B-52 carpet-bombed Taliban positions around Khanabad town near Kunduz, a possible prelude to a ground attack by opposing Northern Alliance troops.

Clearly visible in the cloudless sky, the lone US bomber struck Taliban troops dug in on a bare hillside several hundred meters from the frontlines.

Northern Alliance tanks simultaneously intensified its firing against the Islamic militia entrenched in Khanabad, which had been encircled earlier Thursday by the anti-Taliban forces.

The Northern Alliance fighters laying siege to Kunduz appeared impatient. Early Thursday afternoon, they streamed toward the frontline in trucks and on foot.

Northern Alliance commanders already at the front led troops on mountain paths closer to Taliban positions.

"When we conquer Kunduz, make sure you get some of the cars," one commander told a line of men trudging through the dust and mud of an abandoned frontline village.

Refugees

Refugees from Kunduz streamed through the frontlines, by both the main paved road and on donkey paths over the mountains—by foot, donkey and by car.

"The United States is bombing and the people are escaping," said refugee Mahmmdi, breathless and too much in a hurry to stop to talk. "The city is empty."

Refugees said they were escaping both the anger of foreign fighters trapped in the city and the US bombs.

Several refugees said US bombs hit three mud houses in a frontline village Tuesday, killing many civilians. One refugee, who said he helped bury the dead, put the toll at 40.

Defiant Taliban troops at the front launched their first mortar attack in days, sending shells onto a heavily trafficked road leading out of Kunduz.

Refugee women dashed for cover, their head-to-toe white shrouds flapping around them. Many women, confused, dived into a ditch exposed to the incoming mortar fire, their fingers tearing desperately at the dirt as shells pounded around them.

Coalition partners have been urging Northern Alliance commanders to show restraint should they capture Kunduz, responding to fears that their fighters could commit atrocities against the Taliban and foreign fighters holding out in the city.

US Gen. Tommy Franks, the coalition commander, urged two top alliance leaders—Gen. Rashid Dostum in Mazar-e-Sharif and alliance defense minister Mohammed Fahim—"that if there are prisoners, they should be humanely treated."

Power-sharing

The Northern Alliance has agreed to attend power-sharing talks for a post-Taliban government in Bonn, Germany, next week.

The search is on for leaders to represent the dominant Pashtun ethnic group. Officials of the US-led coalition have said the Taliban was not welcome at the talks.

Coalition spokesperson Kenton Keith said Taliban control over their other main base, the southern city of Kandahar, was "loosening."

Over the past week, ethnic Pashtun tribal leaders from across the border in Pakistan have been trying to persuade the Taliban to surrender the city.

But Taliban spokesperson Syed Tayyab Agha said that the Taliban fighters would fight to keep the one-quarter of Afghanistan they still hold, particularly their spiritual base of Kandahar.

The Afghan Islamic Press reported US bombing early Thursday in mountains on the outskirts of Kunduz, in Kandahar and in Paktia province, saying three people were injured in Kandahar. The report by the Pakistan-based news agency could not be confirmed.

The US-led coalition launched attacks on the Taliban in early October for their refusal to hand over Bin Laden.

After weeks of US bombing of Taliban positions, a Northern Alliance advance swept the Islamic militia out of almost all the north and took Kabul on Nov. 13.

On Thursday, the Taliban lost their last diplomatic contact with the outside world when Pakistan informed the staff of the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad—controlled by the Taliban—that it should shut down.

Diplomats came to their offices early in the morning but left after a few minutes.

Thanksgiving

But even as their war effort continued, US servicemen in the region held Thanksgiving celebrations.

In the Arabian Sea, the crew of the USS Theodore Roosevelt said prayers and watched Miami Dolphins cheerleaders wave pompoms to the tune of James Brown's "Living in America."

"It's good for the people's morale, with all this fighting that's going on," said Aaron Glover, 24, of New York. "It's good to get people holding in high spirits for the holiday season." ***Reports from AP and AFP***

BATANG PINOY

DECS okays teachers stint

ALL possible major hitches in the run-up to the third Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy have been ironed out, capped by a crucial DECS decision allowing public teachers and student athletes to participate in the Dec. 1 to 7 competition.

DECS Secretary Raul Roco signed on Tuesday the memorandum circular ordering public school children and teachers participating in the third PNYG-Batang Pinoy to participate in the games Bacolod City and Negros Occidental are hosting anew at the Panaad Sports Complex.

Commissioners Amparo Lim, project director for the third PNYG-Batang Pinoy, Ricardo Garcia and Cynthia Carrion secured the memorandum circular in a meeting with Roco Tuesday at the DECS offices in Pasig City.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, a former commissioner of the PSC, was also instrumental in Roco's issuance of the memorandum circular which is vital to the holding of the games since more than half of the participants in the games come from the public schools.

Roco's memorandum circular is now being disseminated to the various regions and the PSC expects all local sports councils to receive a copy before the weekend.

Drag race at Harbor

THE X-DRAGS Power Festival drag racing roars off tomorrow at the Manila Harbor Center, with well-known racers taking part. Sponsored by Denso Iridium Spark Plugs, the event will be staged by the Philippine Drag Racing Family Sport and will start at 10 a.m. Hideki Yoshida, manager of Denso Iridium after-market sales department, said the project hopes to keep car racing out of the streets while providing worthwhile activities for the youth. Denso Iridium is the latest in high-performance spark plugs, which combines the world's smallest iridium center electrode and the original U-Groove technology for maximum engine performance.

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Race 4—1. Shuttle's Magic 2. Like A Prince 3. Little Voices 4. Romantic Bay
Race 5—1. Sweet Topic 2. Ginger Baker 3. Top Mark 4. Sea Wolf
Race 6—1. Race for Gold 2. Awashincash 3. Winning Prize 4. Lady Witty 5. Prime Minister
Race 7—1. May's Magic 2. Cobra Door 3. Strong Bird 4. La Espanola 5. Nag-iisang Ikaw 6. Spoiler
Race 8—1. Aly Sam 2. Talk to Patsy 3. Main Street 4. Red Thunder 5. Imperial Passion
Race 9—1. Winning Rose 2. Strawberry Joy 3. Gifted Angel 4. Choice for Change 5. Flying Fortress 6. Lovely Luigi

Singaporean paces Optimist tilt

SINGAPORE'S Teo Wee Chin led 33 other sailors after 10 races yesterday to become the virtual champion in the 14th Asean Optimist Championship for kids under-16 years old in Subic Bay.

Showing consistency throughout the first 10 races, Chin is now well-entrenched to take the crown, while Philippine Sailing Association's Emerson Villena is coming in second.

Action resumes today and will end tomorrow.

The condition in Subic Bay has been very shifty in wind strength and directions which caused some interesting results that showcased the competitors' boat handling.

Malaysia's Chew Xian Jian is at third place, followed by Nurul Marisara Binti Hohd Isa and Sandra Lili Yin, both of Malaysia. Yin is the silver medal winner in the girls' division in the last Southeast Asian Games.

At sixth place is Joseph Jayson Villena, Emerson's brother, just ahead of two Singaporeans Sarah Tan Wei and Colin Cheng Xinru.

Pasay derby tonight

METRO Manila's well-known cockers and breeders collide in another superb cockfight action at the Pasay City Cockpit tonight via the special 4-cock derby which features more than 50 encounters.

Among the favorites in this event to be hosted by veteran cocker Danny Aguilar are William Co, Lito Orillaza, lawyer Rudy Salud, Rep. James Chiongbian, Raymond Velayo, Bobby Cabillon, Ely Cruz, Cito Manansala, Daday Siochi, Lito Roque, Cesar Tangkad, Councilor Ferdie Eusebio, Renato Shio and Louie Cun.

A whopping cash prize of P300,000 is at stake. Entry fee is P10,000. Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Meanwhile, another 4-cocker is slated next Friday, Nov. 30, to be hosted by the Cesar Bote and Company.

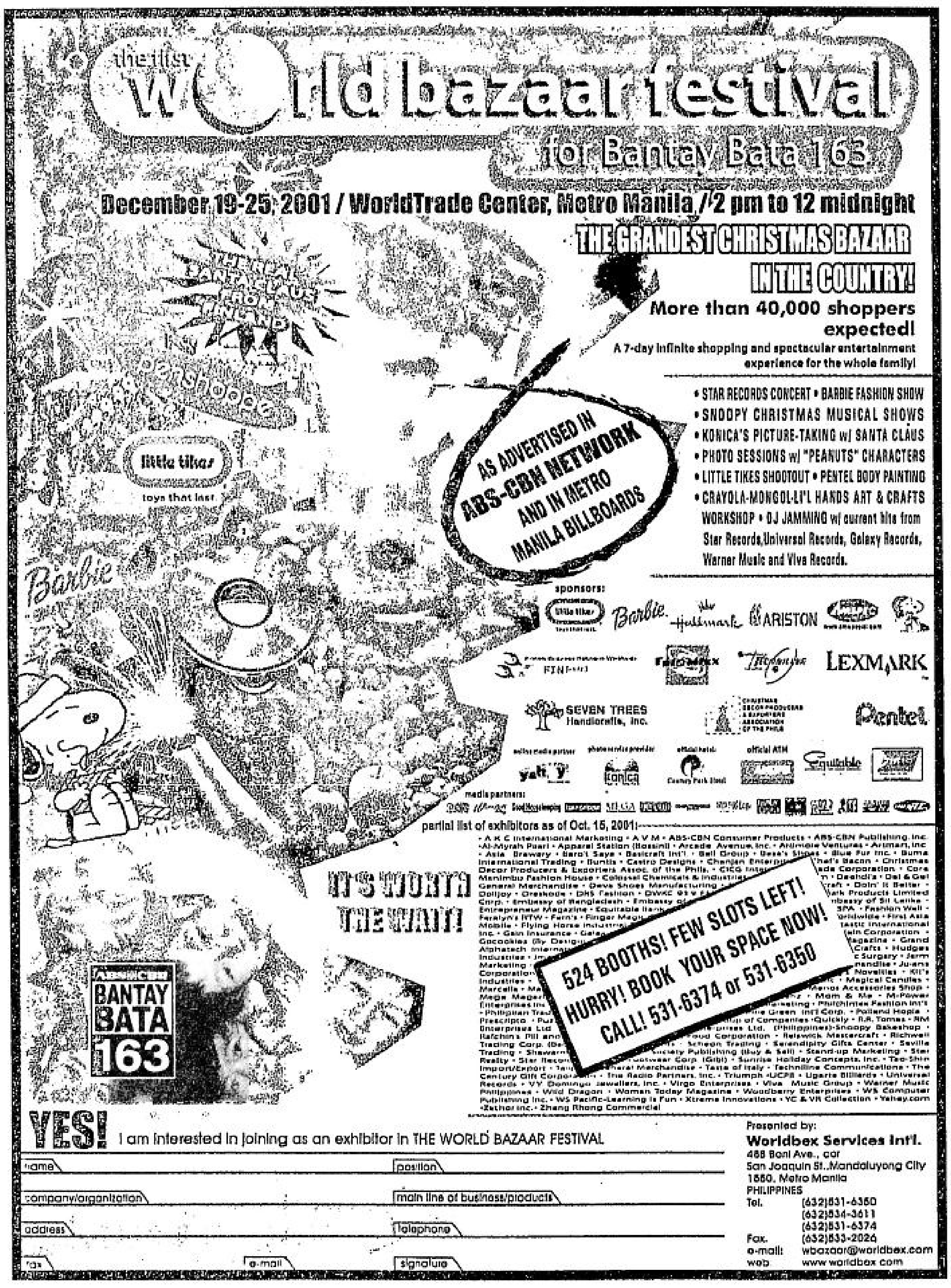
Hackfights are also held at PCC every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tanza cockfight

THE FIRST CCL 3-Cock Derby will be held at the Agilahas Cockpit Arena, Gallera de Tanza, Cavite, on Dec. 8, Rosario Councilor Jose Hernandez announced. Call 046-438-1996 for details.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Joey Antonio and Vince Alaan beat their opponents to push the Philippines to a 3-1 rout of Angola and into the top 20 in the 29th Chess Olympiad at the Voyvodina Sports Center in Novisad, Yugoslavia.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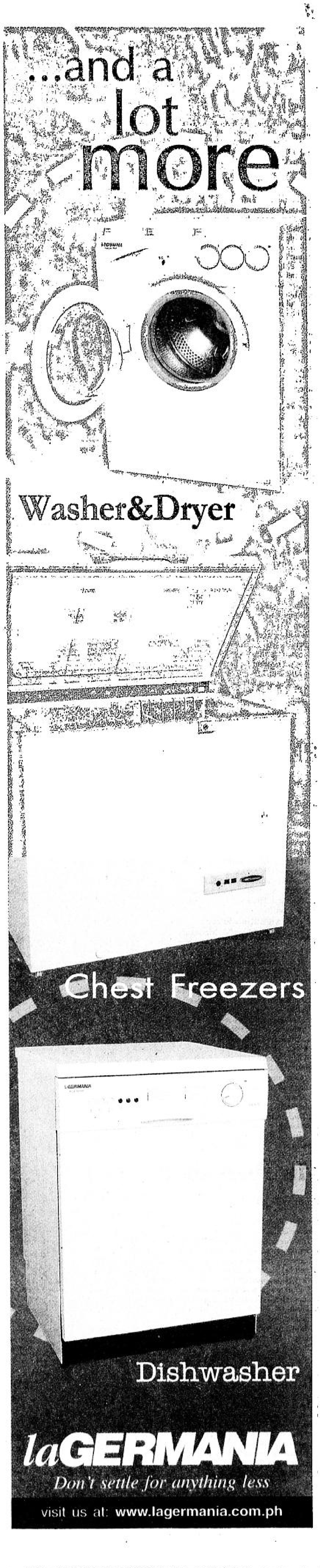
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Woods wins 4th 'Slam' by a record

WOODS: Slump over. AP

POIPU BEACH, Hawaii—Tiger Woods won his fourth straight PGA Grand Slam of Golf on Wednesday, finishing with a record 12-under 132 total for a three-stroke victory over David Toms.

Woods, the Masters champion, matched the tournament record with a 7-under 65 in the final round on the Poipu Bay course. Toms, the PGA champion, shot a 67.

Woods earned $400.000 from the $1 million purse in the two-day event for the winners of the four major championships.

Toms received $250,000. US Open champion Retief Goosen closed with a 71 to finish third at 137 and earn $200,000, and British Open champion David Duval was last at 4-over 148 after a 72. He received $150,000.

Woods broke the tournament record of 11 under set by Ernie Els in 1997 and also broke a tie with Greg Norman for the tournament victory record.

Woods jumped out early in the closing round, birdieing five of the first seven holes. He made the turn at 4-under 32.

He started the day a stroke behind Goosen, but took the lead for good with a 5-foot (1.5-meter) birdie putt on the 573-yard (521-meter) sixth after hitting a 320-yard (291.2-meter) drive and a 252-yard (229.32-meter) approach with a 6-iron.

Woods also made 30-foot (9-meter) birdie putts on Nos. 2 and 4.

He coasted in the final three holes when Goosen and Toms bogeyed the 16th, giving him a three-stroke advantage with two holes to play. Woods birdied the final two holes.

Goosen shot a 66 to take a one-stroke lead over Woods after the first round. But four bogeys on the back nine in the final round hurt his chances of beating Woods.

Duval shot himself out of the tournament with a first-round 76. The 2001 Masters was Woods' fourth consecutive victory in a major. *AP*

La Salle paces PJGDA golfest

LA SALLE Greenhills scored a first round 146 yesterday to take the High School division lead in this year's Milo-PJGDA Inter-Schools Junior Golf Tournament at the Club Intramuros course.

Kevin Lachica led the La Sallite parbusters with 56 points while Ron Onglengco contributed 46 followed by the 44 of either Martin Madiana or Patrick Dee in the team event with a four-to-play, three-to-count format.

Ateneo de Manila University combined for 124 on the 51 of Judson Eustaquio, Ayon Sanchez's 39 and the 34 of James Yu to pace the Grade School division.

Milo is the sponsor of this annual three-day event conducted by the Philippine Junior Golf Development Association in coordination with the Philippine Junior golf Federation, both headed by Edgardo "Boy" Cantada.

Orchard Invitational draws corporate, gov't bigwigs

POUIE Tugade and Eric Escalona loom as the team to beat while club chairman Conrad Benitez forms one of the celebrity partnerships with Caloocan mayor Rey Malonzo in the fifth Founders' Invitational Golf Cup—the annual member-guest tournament of the Orchard Golf and Country Club—set for tomorrow and Sunday.

Tugade, whose family owns hole-in-one sponsor Transnational Diversified, and Escalona lead the list of winning partnerships from last year's event vying for honors in the 36-hole tilt at Orchard's renowned Palmer and Player courses.

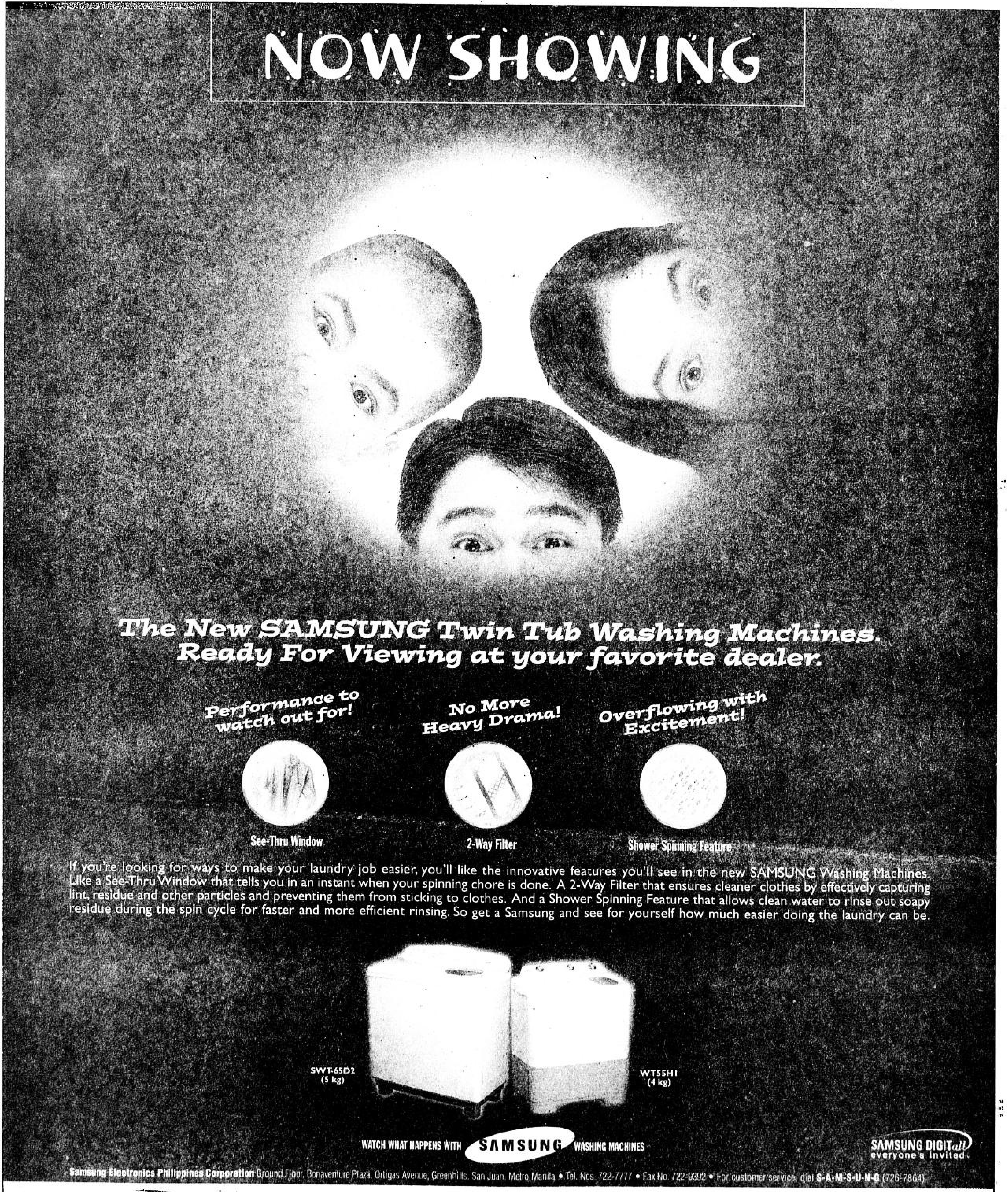
Sta. Lucia Realty EVP Vicente Santos, paired with tournament organizer Andy Dumlao, is also in the roster of the 416 individuals or 208 teams seeing action as well as Boboy Garovillo and Danny Javier of the Apo Hiking Society.

On the proddings of club president Dr. Carlo Magno, organizers are also trying their best to accommodate those already in the waiting list.

Transnational is donating a trip to the United States for a hole-in-one feat to go with a 2001 Ford Lynx 1.6L Ghia being put up by Ford Alabang and a Carrier air-conditioner.

RP softbelles remain contenders

PLANT CITY, Florida — Loverly Parohinog missed a rare grand slam homerun but the Philippines still had enough fire to beat winless China, 6-5, Wednesday in the World junior girls softball championship here. Parohinog slammed the homer with all bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth but she overlapped teammate Joan Arguelles, who was on the third base. But the victory put the Blu Girls in contention for the World Cup.



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BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8:30 a.m. (r–8:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA—Milwaukee Bucks vs Toronto Raptors at 8 a.m. (r–8 p.m.) on Solar Channel (Sky and Home Cable) and Washington Wizards vs Indiana Pacers at 9 a.m. (r–9 p.m.) on ESPN
US NCAA Great Alaska Shootout—Gonzaga Bulldogs vs St John's Red Storm, First Round at 1 p.m. on ESPN

PBA semifinals blast off today

SEIGLE

BY JUNE NAVARRO

GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center)
5:05 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Pop Cola
7:10 p.m.—Shell vs San Miguel Beer

WHETHER San Miguel Beer's Danny Seigle could play or not will be one of Shell's gravest concerns when their best-of-five semifinal clash starts today in the PBA Governors Cup at the Ynares Center.

Seigle, sidelined for most of the season-ending conference after incurring a back injury, has been practicing with the Beermen since Monday and improving by the day, according to SMB coach Jong Uichico.

"He might play or he might not," said Uichico. "But certainly, Danny S. is fit enough to do his usual stuff for the team. We just have to watch out for his back."

Quite problematic with a limping lineup, Shell coach Perry Ronquillo hinted of a huge mismatch should the 6-foot-5 swingman play as key players Benjie Paras and Dale Singson are trying to recuperate from injuries.

Seigle is one of San Miguel's offensive triumvirate, the other two being Danny Ildefonso and Lamont Strothers. He also plays second fiddle to Ildefonso in the season MVP derby.

Paras, the league's only rookie-MVP, has a swollen foot, while Singson had injured his knee against Barangay Ginebra last week.

Unlike Shell and San Miguel Beer, which are plagued by injuries, Sta. Lucia Realty and Pop Cola will touch off their semifinal series with an almost healthy lineup.

Although Pop Cola's Johnny Abarrientos remains a doubtful starter, his shoes is expected to be filled by Ato Morano as evidenced during the Panthers' mastery of the Alaska Aces that catapulted them to the semis last week.

NBA Results: Atlanta 92, Boston 85; Cleveland 101, Memphis 94; Dallas 89, Charlotte 78; Philadelphia 94, Detroit 89; Orlando 117, Minnesota 106; Milwaukee 96, Chicago 92; San Antonio 110, Seattle 93; New Jersey 90, Utah 89, OT; L.A. Lakers 89, Denver 68; Phoenix 96, New York 72; Sacramento 95, Portland 83. *AP*

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Blu stuns Welcoat

BY DENNIS EROA

TITLE-HUNGRY Blu Detergent upstaged Welcoat Paints, 80-75, last night in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Blu and Welcoat, which finally tasted a defeat since blanking Shark in the Chairman's Cup finals, are now tied with identical 3-1 win-loss records, leaving ICTSI Archers (3-0) as the conference's sole unbeaten squad.

Francis Sanz scored three points and Marlon Legaspi, who played with a face mask to protect a broken nose he suffered during practice, had a split as the Detergent Kings posted a 78-75 lead, 14 ticks remaining.

Yancy de Ocampo failed to rescue the Paintmasters as his three-point shot in the last five seconds fell short.

Kutitap Toothpaste tamed Ana Freezers, 79-66, in the first game. The Sparklers stifled Ana's free-wheeling offense with a swarming defense and evened their record to 3-3.

First game:

KUTITAP 79—Gelig 18, Gonzales 17, Baguio 17, Bajar 9, Mercado 7, Salangsang 3, Natividad 2, Espiritu 2, Dy 2, Sison 2, Rivera 0.

ANA FREEZERS 66—Mendoza D. 16, Capus 11, Mendoza 11, Vilar 8, Pascual 8, Tubid 5, Flores 3, Oreta 3, Artadi 1, Torres 0, De Castro 0.

Quarters: 22-16, 37-40, 54-50, 79-66.

NCRAA gets going

OLIVAREZ College will host next year's National Capital Region Athletic Association which is slated to celebrate its grand first decade celebration.

This developed as the NCRAA's ninth season kicks off with a three-division basketball tournament today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Nineteen colleges and universities, with more than 20,000 students in their fold, make up the league, which has become the biggest school-sports gathering since its formation in 1992.

St. Francis of Assisi remains as top favorite in both the senior and junior divisions although Lyceum of the Philippines is expected to go all-out in toppling the Doves from the seniors podium.

Host Olivarez College is also a team to reckon within the juniors level.

A grand "palabas," centering on the theme "Palakasan: Pagsulong ng Kabataang Pilipino" would blast off the 8:30 a.m. opening rites, in which Senate President Franklin Drilon was invited as guest speaker.

It has become our vow to lead the way in youth improvement through sports and cultural development. And this year, although we are celebrating only our ninth year, we are already looking forward to a better and improved season next year in celebration of our 10th year," NCRAA president Josefina Espino, Lyceum's physical education directress, said.

Andok's battles FedEx

GAMES TODAY:
RMC Gym, Davao City
3 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs TPG Davao
San Juan Gym
5:30 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Andok's San Juan

ANDOK'S San Juan has broken FedEx Laguna's spell. It is now the Lakers' turn to feel the heat.

The Knights target a finals berth in the Northern Conference of the MBA Second Phase when they battle the Lakers at 5:30 p.m. today in Game Two of their best-of-three semifinal series at the San Juan Gym.

Cebuana Lhuillier seeks a repeat over TPG Davao in the 3 p.m. opener at the RMC Gym in Davao which would also pushed it into the Southern Conference finals. The Gems dumped the Eagles, 117-93, Wednesday night to take a 1-0 lead in their own semifinal series at the Cebu City Coliseum.

The Knights edged the Lakers, 88-85, also on Wednesday to gain the homecourt edge.

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GTK to Dayrit: Perform better

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

GO Teng Kok, the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president, yesterday challenged Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit to "perform better" and act on the troubled national sports associations "before the whole matter blows on his face."

Go said associations in cycling, weightlifting, karatedo, tennis and basketball, kept on coming to him asking for his help regarding their internal problems because they "no longer believe the POC can help them."

Dayrit said he is accepting the dare and asked Go to prove all his allegations on Nov. 28 when the POC general assembly convenes at the Philippine Columbian Association in Paco.

"I'm talking about real issues here. NSAs are coming to me when they can go to him instead," said Go. "I can't concentrate on our operations in Patafa because I also have to help them."

The Patafa chief also said he's not after any personal reward because he's no longer running for the POC presidency. Go ran against Dayrit during the POC presidential elections last year.

"He (Dayrit) should not feel threatened by me because he won't be ousted if he's doing his job well," added Go. "And he should not think that I influence these NSA heads because they have a mind of their own. Don't insult their mentality."

But Dayrit said Go is just muddling the affairs of the POC and that he's painting a bad picture of Philippines sports which is critical at this point when the national athletes are preparing for the Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea next year.

Why cockfighting clicks

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

COCKFIGHTING, alongside basketball, is the country's biggest attraction in terms of crowd attendance. Daily cockfights, most especially on Sundays, are held before countless aficionados in more than 1,300 cockpits all over the Philippines, proof enough that cockfighting, or *sabong* in the local parlance, is the Filipinos' favorite pastime.

As a matter of fact, the authentic Philippine sports is not only popular among the more prominent locals such as Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, the ageless James Chiongbian, three-term Rizal Gov. Ito Yñares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago and respected lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, but also among many American cocker-breeders like the venerable Ray Alexander of Alabama and Dan Gray of Louisiana, not to mention Australian horse racing buff Andrew Mulligan of Melbourne and Italian marathon organizer Dr. George Oneto of Florence.

"A fascination I discovered here was *sabong*," Mulligan once said. "I found it to be most exciting and very honest because bets—big or small—are honored with the use of mere hand signals, a fine trait that almost borders on the unbelievable."

For truly, Philippine cockfighting has gained universal acceptance because of its traditional adherence to sportsmanship, honest and fair play.

Take the National Cockers Association for instance. In the submission of weights before every NCA derby, computerized matching is strictly observed under NCA rules in the presence of the participants or their representatives, the promoters and, most importantly, the public.

"We do not cheat," noted breeder Boy Jiao once said. "The NCA is transparent and fair. The growing number of NCA members will attest to that."

Korean dribblers shine

GAMES TODAY:
2 p.m.—RP Young Men's vs Korea-Sangmu
4 p.m.—Spring Cooking Oil v Univ. of the East
6 p.m.— San Sebastian College vs Cebu Lhuillier

SANGMU of Korea blasted Cebu Lhuillier, 101-68, to snare the first finals berth in the 2001 National Open Basketball Championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum yesterday.

The Koreans, whose only loss so far was handed by Spring Cooking Oil on opening day, won their third straight to tie their victims at 3-1.

But Sangmu, runner-up in the 24th William Jones Cup, is still expected to clinch a seat to the winner-take all finale tomorrow, due to a superior quotient over the rest of the six-team field. The Koreans are heavy favorites against winless RP Youth squad at 2 p.m. today.

Open kegfest on tap

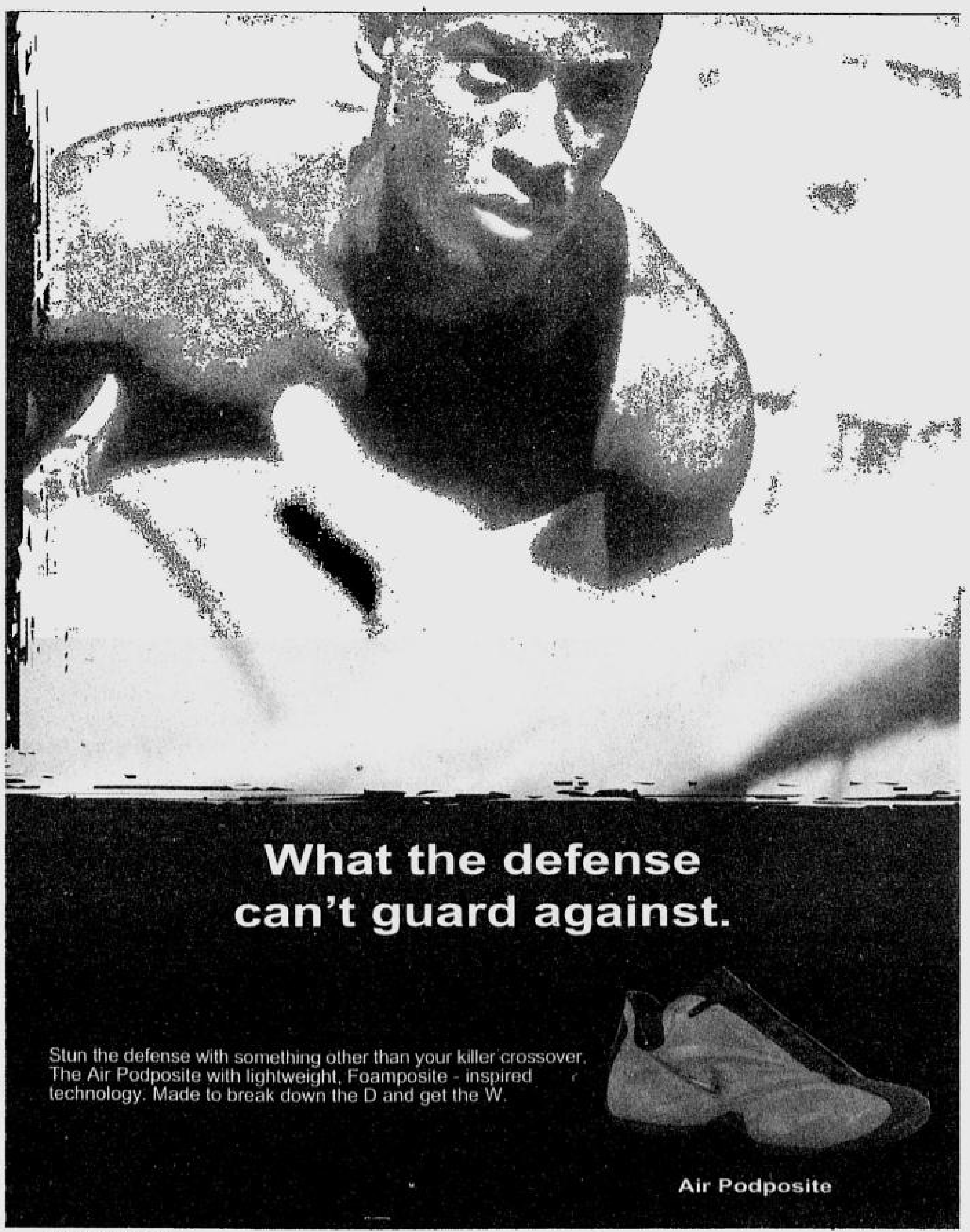
GIFT certificates and trophies worth P350,000 will be at stake in the 27th National Open duckpin bowling championships set tomorrow until Dec. 2 at the Puyat Sports Center in Starmall along Edsa.

According to PHIDBC (Philippine Duckpin Bowling Council) president Inez G. Magbual, competition will be conducted in team and singles (classes A/B and C) for men and ladies and mixed doubles.

The major prizes are P35,000 and P30,000 for the men's and women's team champions, respectively; P12,000 for the men's and ladies' singles (A/B) winners, P10,000 for the men's and ladies' singles (class C) topnotchers and P10,000 for the mixed doubles titlists.

There will also be individual and team awards for high pinning, high single and top qualifiers.

The tourney caps PHIDBC's calendar of events for the year. All PHIDBC affiliates and chapters in Metro Manila and the provinces are expected to see action.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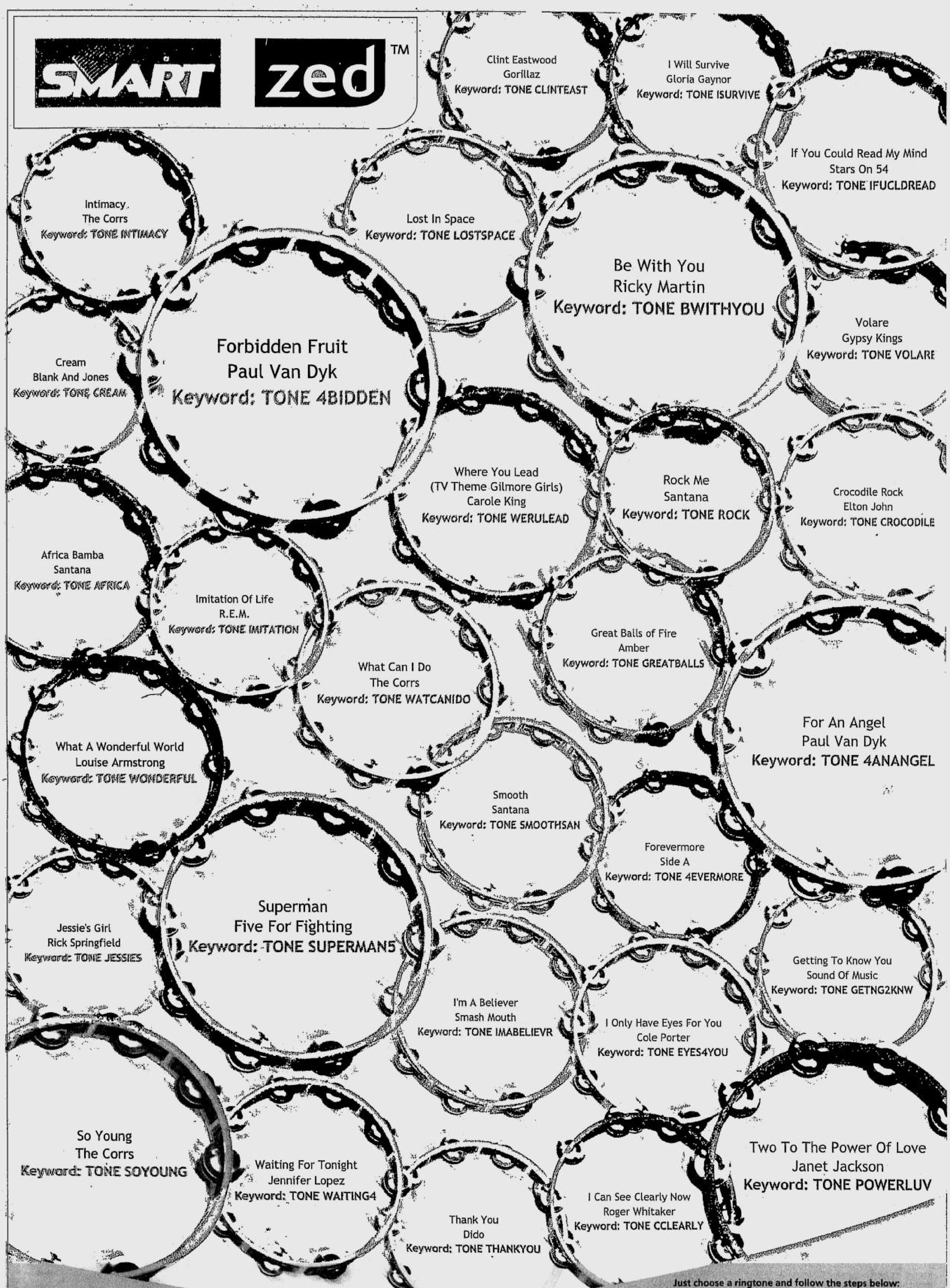

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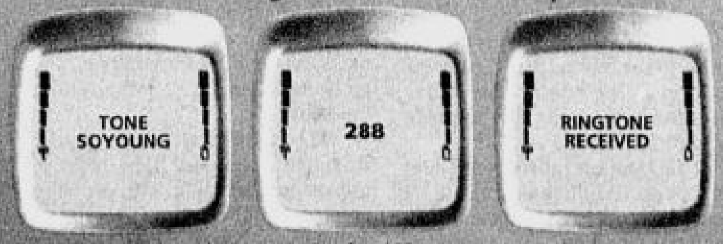

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

No more surgery for Vandolph–Alma

Young actor raises arm in response to stepfather's joke

QUIZON

By Leah Salterio

ACTOR Vandolph Quizon no longer needs to undergo a second operation for the injuries he suffered in a driving accident in Pangasinan on Monday, according to his mother, Alma Moreno.

The actress revealed this yesterday even as she also said that her 17-year-old son raised his fractured right arm yesterday afternoon in response to a jest made by his stepfather, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez.

"Last Monday, we were told he needed to undergo a brain operation," Moreno told the INQUIRER yesterday from a suite of the Makati Medical Center, where her son was brought Monday night, flown by helicopter from Pangasinan. "But after the 12-hour operation last Tuesday, his doctors said there is no need for another operation."

She quoted doctors as saying that all of Vandolph's internal organs—including his kidneys, pancreas, liver—are intact. The young man, who is Moreno's child by comedian Dolphy, also did not suffer any infection, she added.

She related that in the ICU, Marquez told his stepson, "Vandolph, get up from that bed. I'm not mad at you (for wrecking my car in that accident). Stand up! I'm hungry. I cannot even play golf because I've been watching over you."

That was when Vandolph slowly raised his fractured and partly burned right arm over his head, and then moved it back to his side, Alma said.

She said she wept again when she saw this.

Vandolph also tried to yawn from the first time since he was brought to the Makati Medical Center, she said.

Tuesday, the young man underwent a total of 12 hours of surgery on his right arm, right leg and hips.

Moreno yesterday was holding Vandolph's Gucci wallet which residents found in the car wreck site in Pozzorubio town in Pangasinan. The wallet was a gift from her, Alma said.

Inside the wallet were six small pictures of Vandolph and his girlfriend Desiree "Ishy" Raquiza, and a prayer booklet of Our Lady of Manaoag. The money was also intact, she said.

NO MORE/ A27

Autonomy for Metro –Atienza

By Jerome Aning, Alcuin Papa and Agnes E. Donato

INSTEAD of abolishing the Metro Manila Development Authority, it should be strengthened and transformed into a stronger government agency with the powers and functions of an autonomous region, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said yesterday.

Atienza, who is also president of the Metro Manila Mayors League, said the only way the MMDA could function effectively is for it to become more centralized and to be transformed into a political unit composed of the 13 cities and four municipalities of the National Capital Region.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. welcomed Atienza's proposal, saying it would enable the agency to deliver more services to Metro Manila residents.

Atienza said Metro Manila residents should be allowed to elect a person who would rule the metropolis like a governor of a province or an autonomous region.

The NCR should also have its own elected legislative assembly, similar to city councils and provincial boards, to help the governor in policy formulation and decision-making, he added.

"There is a need to strengthen the agency and give it more authority for it to be more responsive and effective in delivering more services," Abalos told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He also suggested that some of MMDA's functions, like flood control and sewerage management, be devolved to the mayors of cities and towns under MMDA.

The Supreme Court ruled recently that the MMDA does not have legislative power and therefore could not make or enforce laws concerning police, taxation and eminent domain.

Congress is conducting hearings on whether or not the MMDA should be abolished and replaced with another body. Valenzuela City Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo Jr. was the first lawmaker to call for MMDA's abolition in 1999.

A bill filed by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. echoed Atienza's proposal. Pimentel's bill calls for the establishment of a federal form of government for the country, with Metro Manila as one of the "federal states."

MMDA's abolition would cost about 8,000 employees of the agency their jobs, said Ferdie Gaite, president of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage). He said most of these employees would be street sweepers, garbage collectors and traffic enforcers who earn as low as P4,840 a month.

On Tuesday, thousands of MMDA employees belonging to the Sandigan ng mga Kawani't Manggagawa ng Mamamayan sa Kamaynilaan (Sakamay) held a vigil in front of the Batasan Pambansa to oppose the abolition of the MMDA.

Gaite said MMDA employees would launch a series of protest actions against the abolition of the agency.

The MMDA started as the Metropolitan Manila Commission (MMC), created in 1975 by Ferdinand Marcos' Presidential Decree 824. In 1990, then President Aquino abolished the MMC, with the Metropolitan Manila Authority taking over the delivery of basic urban services requiring the coordination of the different local government units.

In 1995, Congress passed Republic Act No. 7924, which created the MMDA.

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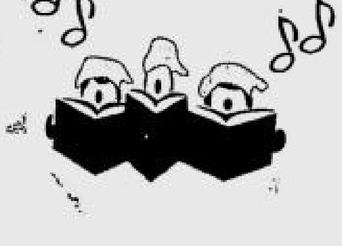

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messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

I convey my warmest felicitations to the men and women of the Marian Radiation Oncology Center on the event of their Inauguration Ceremonies.

I salute the officers and staff of the Marian Radiation Oncology Center for being at the forefront of technological developments and medical advancements in your field of expertise. Through your commitment and efforts to establish a cancer treatment center that effectively caters to the medical needs of our people, you contribute to the creation of a healthier society.

We welcome this event as a perfect venue to consolidate the ranks of all stakeholders of the medical industry behind the National Health Programs implemented by our administration. The government recognizes your contribution to the empowerment and development of the medical industry in our country. Your work in the medical field is a vital step in ensuring the sufficiency and accessibility of medical resources and a better quality of life for the Filipino people.

I look forward to the positive contributions of the Marian Radiation Oncology Center, medical practitioners and shareholders so that together, we will be able to steer our nation towards greater peace, progress, good health and prosperity.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

My warmest greetings to the administration and staff of the Marian Radiation Oncology Center (MROC) on the inauguration of the state-of-the-art facility on November 24, 2001.

The incidence of cancers in the Philippines has more than doubled over the past two decades. Over a hundred different forms of cancers have been identified in humans but the leading sites are the lungs, breast, liver, cervix and colorectal area. Recent statistics would show that cancers rank as the fourth leading cause of death in the country.

Given this scenario, the health professionals are burdened with the task of addressing the health care needs of cancer patients, majority of whom would seek treatment during later stages of the disease. At present, there are very limited government hospital facilities that provide cancer therapy services.

The entry therefore of a privately-owned and operated radiation oncology center into the Philippine health care system is indeed a welcome idea. Your institution stands as a symbol of the Department of Health's strong partnership with the private sector in our collective drive to improve the quality of health care for our fellow Filipinos.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

Republika ng Pilipinas
Lungsod Quezon, Kalakhang Maynila
TANGGAPAN NG PUNONG LUNGSOD
(OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR)

Serbisyong Bayan SB Lungsod Quezon

It is a source of pride for Quezon City residents that the country's most modern anti-cancer facility, the Marian Foundation Oncology Center (MROC), is located in Fairview.

MROC is one of the important centers ever established in our City as it gives hope and consolation to all cancer patients in Quezon City and those who live north of Manila. Through world-class technology and medical expertise, MROC endeavors to fight cancer, enhance health, and improve the general quality of life for our people.

We welcome the MROC to Quezon City and wish its staff all the best.

Mabuhay!

FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.
City Mayor

Marian Radiation Oncology Center
Regalado Ave., cor. Dahlia St.,
West Fairview, Quezon City

Marian Radiation Oncology Center, Inc. (MROCI) has a vision - to be foremost in the provision of 21st century cancer radiation treatment to the Filipino people in need of such therapy.

Working together to make this vision a reality, the shareholders of Marian Radiation Oncology Center (MROC) link hands together, doctors and businessmen alike, to fulfill a mission--to make available in the Philippines the best options for radiation cancer cure that is comparable to what is offered in advanced countries. We aim to offer this radiation treatment at a cost that is affordable to our people.

It is with distinct privilege and pride that Marian Radiation Oncology Center (MROC) presents to the Filipino people and to all of South East Asia a state of the art cancer management facility - a private sector endeavor that is committed to share in the responsibility of health care delivery to all those in need of cancer treatment.

LILIA P. LUNA, M.D.
Chairman

Marian Radiation Oncology Center
Regalado Ave., cor. Dahlia St.,
West Fairview, Quezon City

The Marian Radiation Oncology Center (MROC) is committed to provide total cancer management at par with the best techniques and procedures available in the modern world. In due time, MROC will be able to offer breakthrough services to cancer patients in the Southeast Asian region.

In this way, we will not only be able to conserve our country's dollar reserves, but also rebuild it by bringing in more dollars. Filipinos need not go abroad for cancer treatment hence savings us a lot of dollars with the same quality of cancer treatment that they normally expect from abroad. We further aim to attract patients from our neighborhood countries to avail of MROC services, afforded by cutting edge technology equipment and special brand of care that only a competent team of Filipino doctors can give.

We thank our stockholders for sharing the vision of having a complete cancer management facility like MROC to serve the health needs of the Filipino population, and the rest of Southeast Asia.

In support of the fight against the deadly disease that is cancer, we are committed to always provide excellent service and technology at competitive rates notwithstanding the more precise expensive equipment that MROC have.

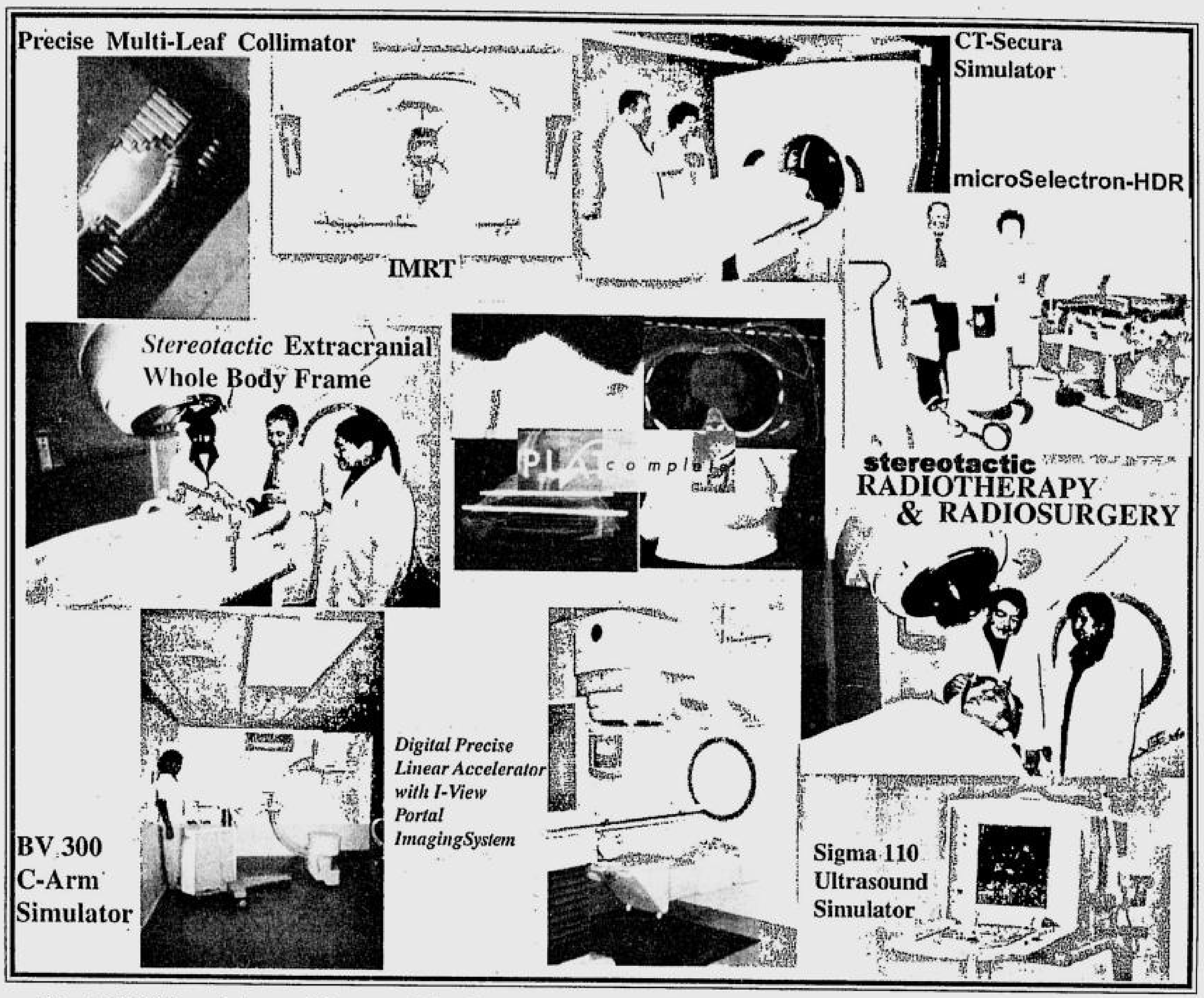
We dedicate our work to our countrymen. And we thank you all for your confidence.

Dr. EDUARDO G. TAN
President & CEO

MROC
MARIAN RADIATION ONCOLOGY CENTER

Marian Radiation Oncology Center

inaugurates the first integrated radiation therapy center in the Philippines utilizing cutting edge technology and team approach in cancer management



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- **First Extra-cranial Stereotactic Radiotherapy**
- **First Radiation Oncology Group Practice in the country.**

The MROC staff is composed of a team of highly trained and experienced oncologists headed by Dr. Eduardo G.Tan who introduced high dose rate brachytherapy in the country and pioneered template guided interstitial prostate brachytherapy in the Philippines.

The other team members are Dr. Vicente Hizon, Dr. Enrico Tangco and Dr. Rosemarie Teleron.

All MROC patients are discussed and evaluated by the team. Their treatment plans are regularly reviewed by the well-trained MROC technical staff to ensure optimum patient management.

MROC is supported by a network of highly trained international experts in the fields of Physics and Clinical Sciences.

Dr. Lilia Pagtakhan-Luna
Chairman of the Board

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President & CEO

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Hostage taker shot dead

POLICE shot dead an unidentified man who held hostage and stabbed seven times a 2-year-old girl in Quezon City yesterday morning.

PO3 Leo Santiago of the Central Police District Station 4 described the slain suspect as about 25, 5-foot-4, medium-built, and sporting a military haircut.

The girl, Kyla Nadine Sorio, of Sauyo Road, Old Cabuyao, Novaliches, is in critical condition at the Tordesillas Hospital in the city.

The girl was walking with her mother Bernadette when the suspect, armed with a kitchen knife, suddenly grabbed the girl near the corner of Susana Road and Quirino Highway in Novaliches about 10 a.m.

Central Police District members tried to convince the suspect to surrender but he allegedly stabbed the girl, prompting PO2 Nestor Bersamina to shoot him, hitting him in the chest and in the right hand. *Agnes E. Donato*

Employees warn of UP-wide protests

By Agnes E. Donato

THE ALLIANCE of Concerned Teachers and Employees of the University of the Philippines have warned of a UP system-wide protests if UP president Francisco Nemenzo would fail to act on their demands for a higher Christmas incentive and for back payment of their cost of living allowance (Cola).

About 300 teachers and employees yesterday gathered again at the UP administration building in Diliman, Quezon City to insist on their demands. They had held a picket at the site last Monday.

Buboy Cabrera, chair of the All UP Workers Union, said this was only the beginning of a system-wide campaign by UP employees for a Christmas incentive of P7,000 and the back payment of their Cola which was discontinued since 1989 following the implementation of the salary standardization law.

"We know that this is going to be a hot contest because we are talking about a huge amount of money, but we are prepared to fight on," Cabrera said.

He said employees and teachers in other UP units in Manila, Los Baños, Baguio, Tacloban and Iloilo have already expressed their support for the demands of the UP Diliman workers.

Benjie Valbuena, spokesperson of the Metro Manila Teachers Forum (MMTF), said each teacher was receiving a monthly Cola of P500 before it was discontinued in 1989.

The inclusion of the Cola in their basic pay prompted thousands of teachers to go on mass leave, and about 3,000 of them were later dismissed.

In August 1998, the Supreme Court nullified the Department of Budget and Management compensation circular No. 10 which provided for the inclusion of the Cola in the basic pay of teachers and other government employees.

Demolition to include houses of soldiers

A VIOLENT encounter could erupt between soldiers today, the fourth day of demolitions in Taguig, as around 800 families of mostly military men may also lose their houses on a disputed property at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

More than a hundred Army soldiers will be deployed to face the soldiers occupying the 20-hectare property, according to Taguig municipal administrator Wilfredo Villar.

Authorities apparently expect the "squatting soldiers" to put up a fight against the 1,000-strong demolition team backed by the Army and local police.

"We expect the soldiers to resist, but they would be battling their own fellow soldiers if that would be the case," Villar said.

Army officials formed Task Force Bantay led by Col. Felipe Pilapil to maintain order at the property being claimed by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, he said.

Since Tuesday the Department of Public Works and Highways and the local government have demolished more than 200 structures along C-5 Road in Taguig. The demolition is supposedly meant to pave the way for a road-widening project.

Of the 7,000 residents reportedly displaced by the demolition, around 1,000 were related to soldiers, according to Divina Daguno, coordinator of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines. *Christian V. Esguerra*

No cigarettes for minors in Marikina

CIGARETTES will not be sold to minors in Marikina City.

The city council yesterday passed Ordinance No. 200 prohibiting the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products and paraphernalia to minors.

Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando said the ban was meant to protect the city residents, particularly minors. She noted that the World Health Organization has classified Marikina as a health city due to its aggressive and relentless promotion of the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Fernando said ordinance violators would be fined P200 for the first offense, P500 for the second and P1,000 for the third. Establishments caught violating the ordinance for the third time would be closed for one week.

Nelson F. Flores

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Mr. Trinidad's column will be back on Monday.

No more surgery . . .

(From page A25)

"This is what saved him," Moreno said, holding the prayer booklet.

Pangasinan residents also turned over Vandolph's black Louis Vuitton clutch bag, which was also given by Alma, to Zsa Zsa, who had fetched him from the Sacred Heart Hospital in Urdaneta City.

The contents of the blood spattered clutch bag are also complete, including Vandolph's mobile phone, a ring, Carolina Herrera perfume, cash, and application forms for two tutorial classes at Colegio de San Agustin in Makati, where Vandolph is a high school junior.

"Nothing was missing inside the van," Alma said. "We are really grateful to the people who brought Vandolph and his girlfriend to the hospital and saved their lives."

Moreno, her mayor husband Marquez, and Dolphy take turns in watching over the young actor at the ICU of the Makati Med.

Marquez, Moreno and their children booked a suite on the ninth floor of the hospital. Dolphy and his partner, Zsa Zsa Padilla, also booked a suite on the same floor.

Vandolph's half-brothers Eric and Jeffrey Quizon also watch over him at the ICU. At night, Moreno's trusted aides — Zeny, Mida, Wilma, Josie, Lea and Vandolph's nanny, Yaya Rose—took turns in looking after him.

Vandolph was driving Marquez's Ford-150 pickup on his way to Baguio when it smashed into an eight-wheeler Isuzu Elf truck in Pozzorubio last Monday.

Vandolph did not have a driver's license at the time of the accident, according to the Land Transportation Office.

Two men, both professional drivers who accompanied them and who were in the backseat of the van, were also hurt.

Vandolph is in ICU Room 11. His girlfriend is in Room 10.

"Every so often, Desiree's parents will also tell their daughter, 'Ishy, wake up, Vandolph wants to see you,'" Moreno said. "When we tell Vandolph that Ishy wants to see him, he seems like he can hear us."

Payoff in Congress revealed

Delegates to the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress vie once again for the coveted Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards. The Inquirer will be there to witness who'll run off with the spoils.

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News that makes a difference

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1	
2	
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5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	HARRY POTTER
7	RESERVE
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3	
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3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4	WEYT A MINIT
5 (SDDS)	GLITTER
6	DUGONG ASO
7 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT
4	DUGONG ASO
5 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KAPITAN AMBO

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DUGONG ASO

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	DUGONG ASO
Lords	DUGONG ASO
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HARRY POTTER

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	KAPITAN AMBO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	DUGONG ASO
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HARRY POTTER

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	

Berma tel 879.2029

1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DUGONG ASO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	KAPITAN AMBO
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
5	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	TRIP
3	ANO ABNG MERON KA?

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HARRY POTTER
3	WEYT A MINIT

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	WEYT A MINIT

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

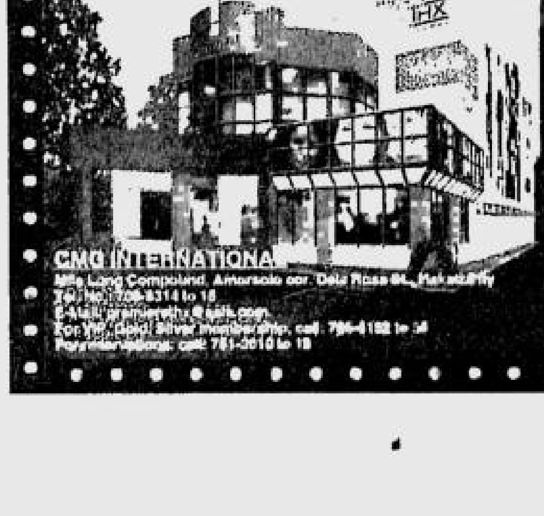
1	GHOST OF MARS
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	HARRY POTTER
4	WEYT A MINIT

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	GHOST OF MARS
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS EX)	HARRY POTTER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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1	HARRY POTTER
2	GLITTER
3	HARRY POTTER
4	SERENDIPITY
5	HARRY POTTER
6	THE ONE
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
9	KAPITAN AMBO
10	JOY RIDE

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	HARRY POTTER
2	THE ONE
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4	SERENDIPITY
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	GLITTER
7	HARRY POTTER

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	DUGONG ASO
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4	GLITTER
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	HARRY POTTER

NOVALICHES 936-3220 TO 31

1	SERENDIPITY
2	SERENDIPITY
3	DUGONG ASO
4	HARRY POTTER
5	HARRY POTTER
6	HARRY POTTER
7	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
8	KAPITAN AMBO

IMUS (046) 471-0180

1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4	SERENDIPITY
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	KAPITAN AMBO

BACOLOD (034) 441-0459 / 0450

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	EXTREME FORCE
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	TRIP

ILOILO (033) 330-0077 / 0079

1	HARRY POTTER
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	HARRY POTTER
4	SOON TO OPEN
5	SOON TO OPEN
6	SOON TO OPEN

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WEYT A MINIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GLITTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EARTHQUAKE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SIDHI / CLIMAX
ODEON	HARRY POTTER
ODEON-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ROBEN	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST FRANCIS VILLE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
REMAR	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
REMAR-2	HARRY POTTER
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
B	KAPITAN AMBO
C	DUGONG ASO
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	GLITTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUGONG ASO
CINEMA-2	KAPITAN AMBO
CINEMA-3	TRIP
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE ONE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF GLADIATORS
CINEMA-6	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-8	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-12	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-14	GLITTER
CINEMA-15	WEYT A MINIT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-5	GLITTER
CINEMA-6	HARRY POTTER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

LUKE Mijares of South Border.

Artists perform with MPO

THE COUNTRY'S well-known band performers headline a series of "Guess Philharmonic in Jeans" concert, which kicks off at 5 p.m. today at the Alabang Town Activity Center.

The series was conceived in 1998, when the Manila Philharmonic Ochestra and Guess Jeans allied for a goal to merge classical discipline with popular

Now on its fourth year, the MPO and Guess bring in a series of free shows in "Band Hits in Concert." Featured artists are Anna Fegi, Pido, Jett Pangan, Luke Mijares of South Border, Joey Generoso of Side A and Lani Misalucha.

Guest conductor of the MPO is Gerard Salonga, with MPO's Rodel Colmenar as musical director.

Other show dates: Dec. 1 at Robinson's Ermita, Dec. 7 at SM Megamall, Dec. 9 at SM Manila and Dec. 15 at the Filinvest Festival Mall.

Network tie-up at Ad Congress

ISLANDS Souvenirs, the leading souvenir brand in the country, continues its partnership with ABS-CBN's licensing and merchandising arm, ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc. (ACPI), the first local company that went into licensing to build a market around their popular movies and TV shows.

Today, Islands Souvenirs and ABS-CBN join advertising practitioners in a special show at the Waterfront Hotel Ballroom in Cebu City, for the National Advertising Congress.

With the partnership, Islands Souvenirs taps into the wealth of resources of one of Asia's biggest media company.

The venture is another bold move by Islands Souvenirs, a company consistently emulated for its pioneering standards and innovativeness.

"Investing on an ABS-CBN property strengthens our brand's equity," said Islands Souvenirs marketing director Lyndon Angan.

Recently, Islands Souvenirs created and produced a special line of apparel and accessories featured in the blockbuster flick, "Trip." They were worn by the film's cast headed by Marvin Agustin and Kristine Hermosa.

Islands Souvenirs will give away special gift packs and T-shirts to all delegates of Ad Congress.

Regine makes audience swoon, sing and fall in love (again) in concert series

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN it was announced that **Regine Velasquez** would render memorable tunes from the silver screen in a concert series, I readily thought it was not an original idea.

The retro band Mulatto did it in a show at the Music Museum.

Lea Salonga also crooned "Songs from the Screen" in her concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) last year at the PICC.

But "Regine at the Movies" sounded promising, what with the new heart-wrenching love tunes from the latest blockbusters that will be included in her repertoire.

True enough, Regine, with the help of her musical director, **Raul Mitra**, selected a lineup that made the Music Museum audiences that night swoon, sing, reminisce romantic movie scenes and even fall in love (again).

The selection included popular tunes, so in most of Regine's numbers, the audience sang with her.

Disappointingly, however, Regine didn't even bother to credit or mention the title of the movie from where the theme was lifted. Unless you're a film or music buff, you wouldn't remember instantly where you first heard that familiar tune.

I also noticed that the tunes were not classified accordingly, as Regine simply belted out one hit song after another.

She could have chosen a medley of beautiful Oscar-winning tunes, since she started the show with 1987's "Dirty Dancing" theme, "I've Had the Time of My Life," which won the best original song in the Academy Awards.

She also carried out **Celine Dion**'s hit, "My Heart Will Go On," from the best picture winner, "Titanic."

Toward the end of the show, Regine also dished out two Oscar-winning themes—"What a Feeling" (from "Flashdance") and "Fame" from the film of the same title.

But Regine looked clueless about the songs she was singing. As long as she followed her repertoire, she knew she was fine. After all, the audience couldn't seem to care less whether or not they remember the star or the title of a particular movie, as long as they heard Regine's trademark histrionics which she unabashedly displayed.

She belted out **Trisha Yearwood**'s "How Do I Live," from the **Nicolas Cage** flick, "Con-Air," then dished out another romantic movie theme, "Spend My Lifetime," from the **Antonio Banderas** starrer, "Mask of Zorro."

Regine also sang another beautiful Celine Dion hit, "Because You Loved Me," from the **Robert Redford-Michelle Pfeiffer** movie, "Up Close and Personal."

She gave the audience a generous serving of love songs—"Can You Read My Mind" ("Superman"), "It Might Be You" ("Tootsie"), "Got To Believe in Magic" ("Zapped") and the theme from "Mahogany."

Regine also sang the popular "You Are My Song" anthem of her blockbuster with **Christopher de Leon**, "Wanted: Perfect Mother."

And how can the songs from today's most popular movie soundtrack, "Moulin Rouge," not make it to Regine's repertoire?

REGINE/ A31

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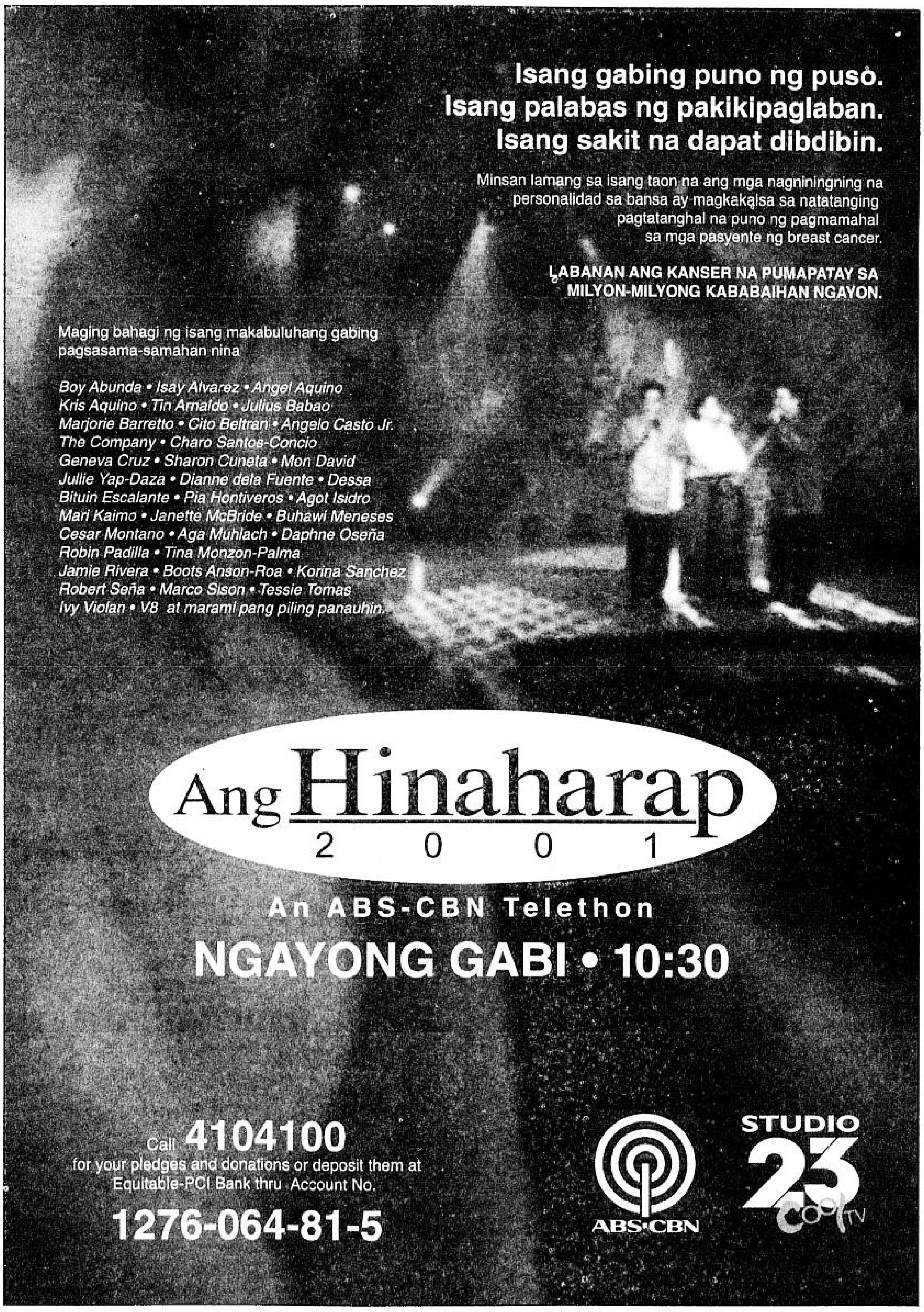

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Jullie Yap-Daza • Dianne dela Fuente • Dessa
Bituin Escalante • Pia Hontiveros • Agot Isidro
Mari Kaimo • Janette McBride • Buhawi Meneses
Cesar Montano • Aga Muhlach • Daphne Oseña
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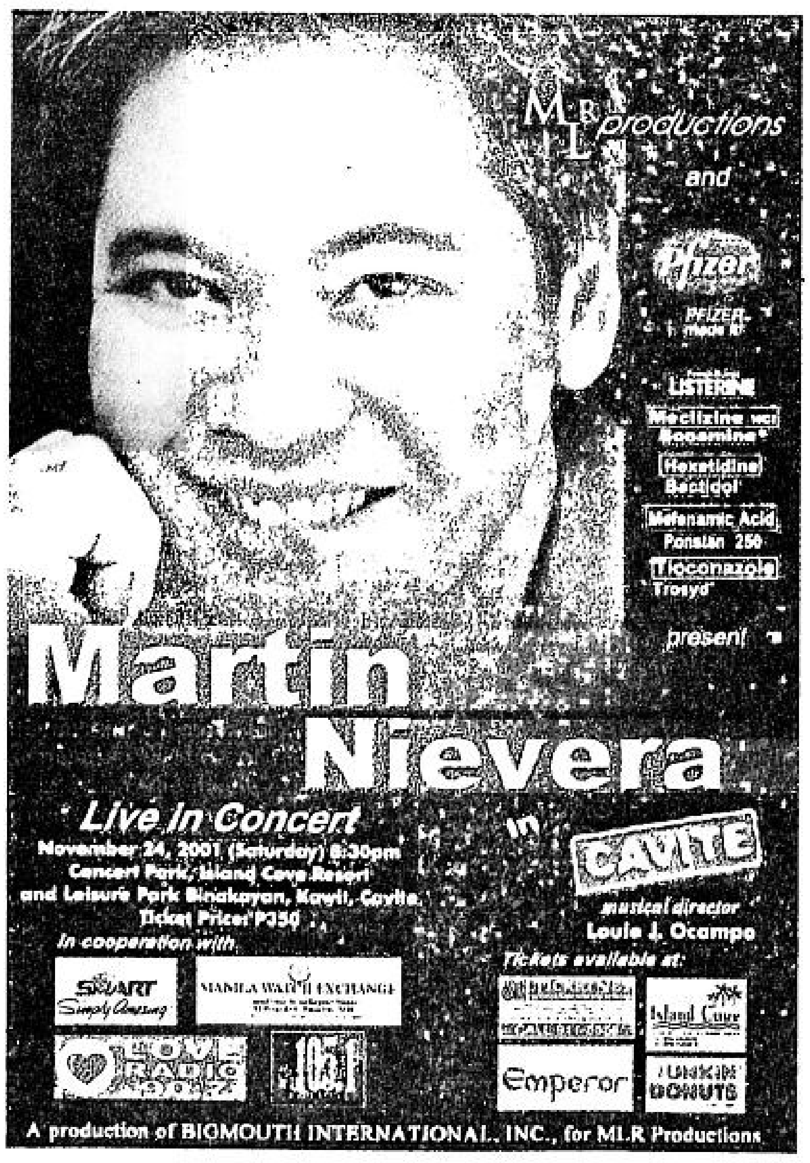

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TRUE FAITH AT VIRGIN CAFÉ

True Faith, one of the busiest bands in the country today, will hold a repeat concert tonight at Virgin Café Tomas Morato. The group will perform their songs from their newest album like "Sumasarap ang Gising" and "Basta Basta," among others. Reminisce with their classic hits such as "Huwag na Lang Kaya, "Kung Okay Lang sa 'Yo," "Sa Puso Ko" and "Perfect."

Primeline artists face busy schedule

THE PRIMELINE artists of Ronnie and Ida Henares are gearing up for a busy end-of-the-year schedule.

First on the list is Karylle, who will join Tony Lambino, Jeff Arcilla, Noel Cabangon, The Company and Jose Mari Chan in the all-star concert, "A Christmas Praise," Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. at the Meralco Theater.

The concert is a benefit for the Ateneo Scholarship Foundation and the Jesuit Volunteers of the Philippines (JVP), Ateneo's student outreach program.

Karylle will perform a duet with Lambino in "When Christmas Comes," and sing a solo number, "Breath of Heaven,". with Ateneo's Bukas-Palad Choir.

For the month of November, catch Karylle on GMA's Sunday noontime show, "SOP." She headlines a new portion, "K-Channel."

Karylle also launched her latest single, "Bakit Ba Ikaw," from her debut album "Time to Shine," under Universal Records.

"Jam Himig Handog sa Makabagong Kabataang Pilipino" best interpreter Radha continues her series of show with Aliya Parcs, Jed Maddela and the Dye Vest band this month.

They will be at Strumm's El Pueblo (Nov. 19 and 26), Strumm's Jupiter (Nov. 21 and 28) and Ratsky's Malate (Nov. 29).

Another busy Primeline artist is Tootise Guevarra, who will release her second single, "Sa Puso Ko," this month. She is also busy with TV guestings, musical variety shows and sitcoms.

Also expected to be visible on TV is Nancy Castiglione. She is a now a mainstay on Bong Revilla Jr.'s sitcom, "Idol Ko si Kap," on GMA 7. She will soon join three more shows on the network.

She will become a regular on the youth-oriented show, "Click," will be a cast member in a new soap opera with Dingdong Dantes, Angelu de Leon and Bobby Andrews, and a new sitcom with Michael V.

Lana Asanin is also part of the sitcom, "Idol Ko si Kap." She also gets to show off her dancing skills in the "Eat Bulaga" dance portion, "Oh, la la."

Also part of the Primeline family is the hottest team on morning radio, Chico and Delamar of "Rush Hour" on 93.9 dwKC-FM. The duo keeps students, office workers and motorists company during the morning rush from 6 to 9 a.m., Mondays to Fridays, and 6 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

For inquiries and bookings, call Primeline at 897-6170 or 897-6172.

Weekend bar tour

MILD Seven models continue to give out prizes and play the "Truth or Dare" game for the bar habitues this weekend.

Tonight, the team invades the hottest night spots in Libis like Giligan's, Famous Mike's, Padi's Point, Pier One, Macau, Blue Onion, Bargo, WhistleStop and Chicago Road House.

Tomorrow, Saturday, the ladies will go to the bustling Tomas Morato strip in Quezon City and will visit Big Shots, Southerm Bulls, Quattro, Congo Grille, Ten Years After, East Saint Louis, Humidor, Cafea, WhistleStop and Virgin Café.

'Comic Appetite'

SANCHEZ

VERSATILE entertainer Marissa Sanchez makes her way to her first major concert, "Comic Appetite," Nov. 30 at Music Museum in Greenhills.

The show is a production of Airtime Entertainment under the direction of Andrew de Real.

"Comic Appetite" has a multi-level format that combines the ingredients of a lounge act and a musical-revue. It will be truly a showcase of Marissa's immense talents both in singing and in comedy, according to producer Baby Pacheco.

Airtime earlier produced an acclaimed Marissa Sanchez-Arnel Ignacio back-to-back at Ratsky's in Malate.

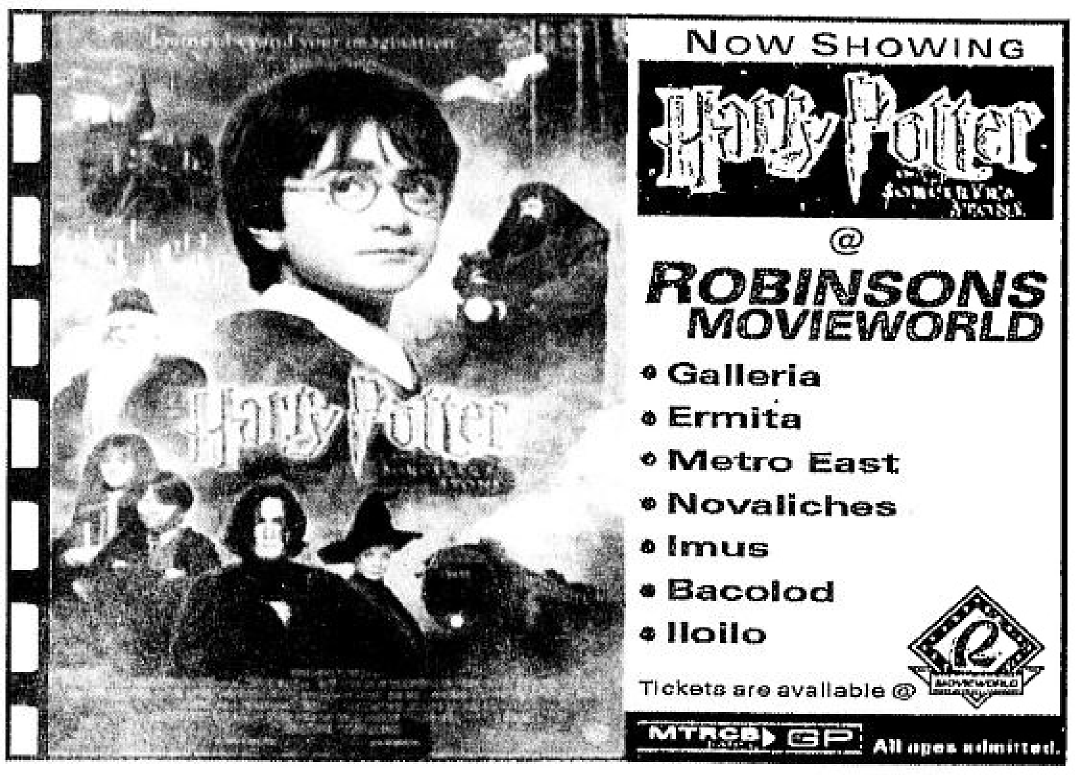
Marissa, who does comic roles on TV and movies, is essentially a singer with a gift of gab, quick-witted and self-deprecating. Years of labor on Manila's and Southeast Asia's club circuit have honed her skills at holding audiences at the palm of her hand.

Regulars of the Hyatt's Calesa Bar, where Marissa held court every Monday for five years, swear to Marissa's enchanting ways with any crowd.

In "Comic Appetite," get a serving of Marissa's much talked about torch singing, her easy banter and often reckless humor.

Joining her as special guests Carlos Agassi, comedians Vhong Navarro and the spooky TV group, Hung Hang (not to be mistaken for The Hunks).

Tickets to "Comic Appetite (Comedy According to Marissa Sanchez)" are available at all Ticket World outlets of National Bookstore, Music Museum or Airtime Entertainment (546-7500).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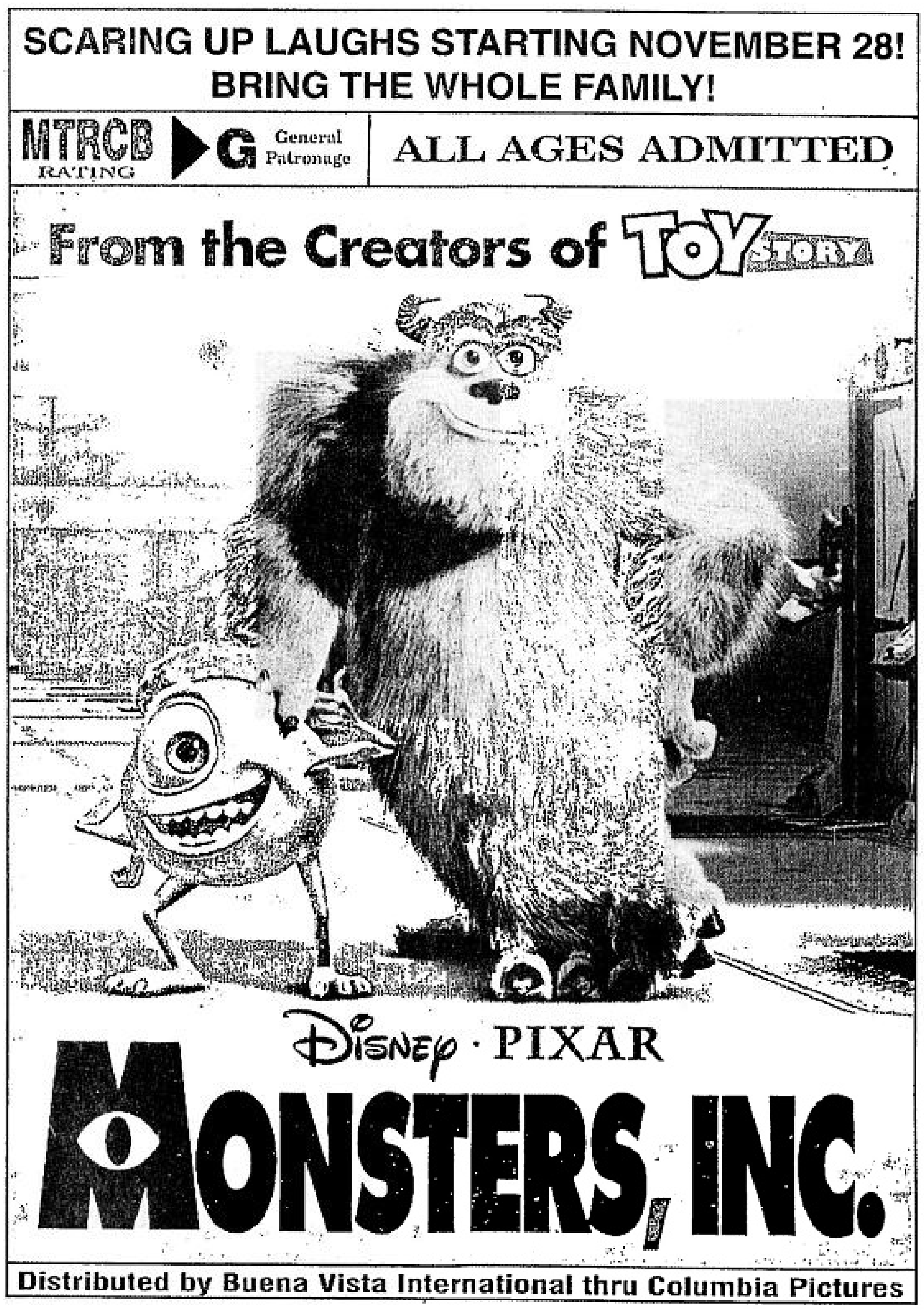
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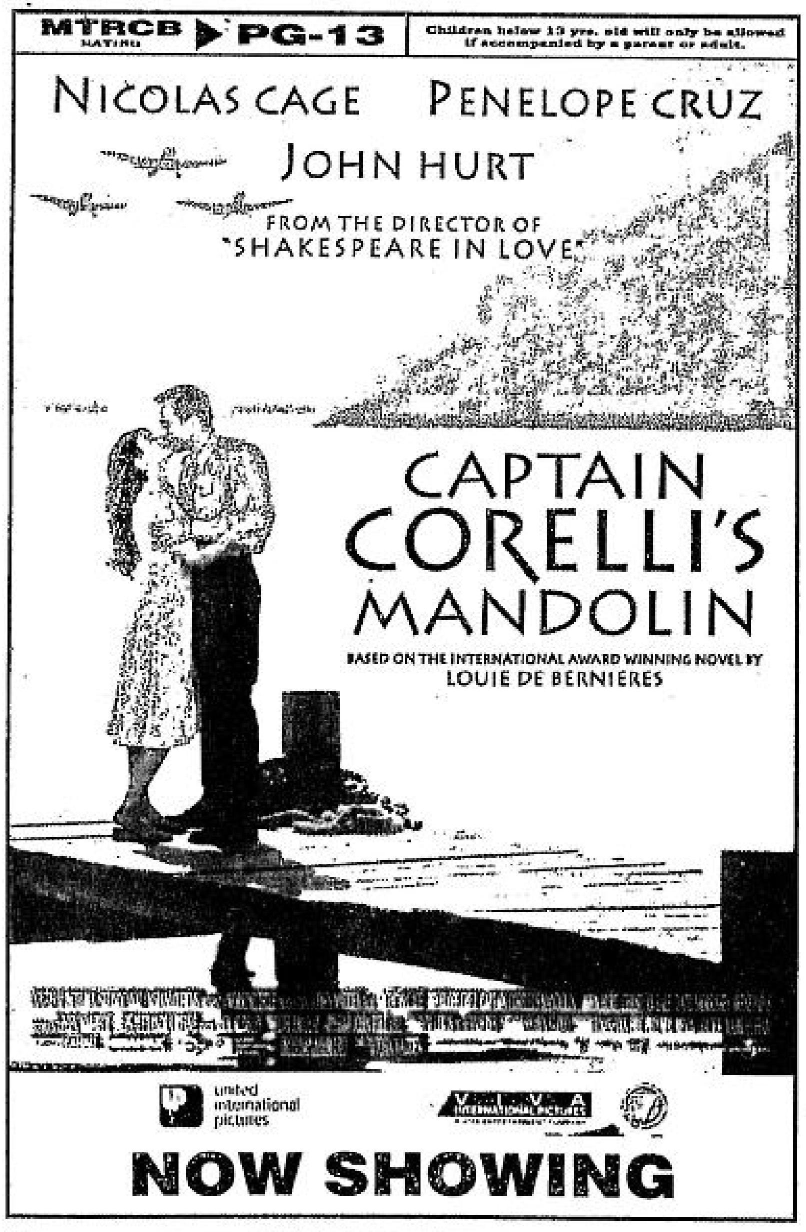
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From 'orphan' to pop superstar

Mariah in a heartwarming rags-to-riches music drama

Pop music legend Mariah Carey makes her major feature film debut in Columbia Pictures' GLITTER, an emotional and heartwarming drama with music featuring her hits "Never Too Far" and "Loverboy."

GLITTER is the story of a young singer, Billie Frank, who overcomes a troubled childhood and struggles to find her true family and her true voice.

Abandoned as a child by her mother, Billie grows up in an orphanage. Discovered by a charismatic "bad boy" deejay who becomes her lover, she is soon on her way to pop superstardom.

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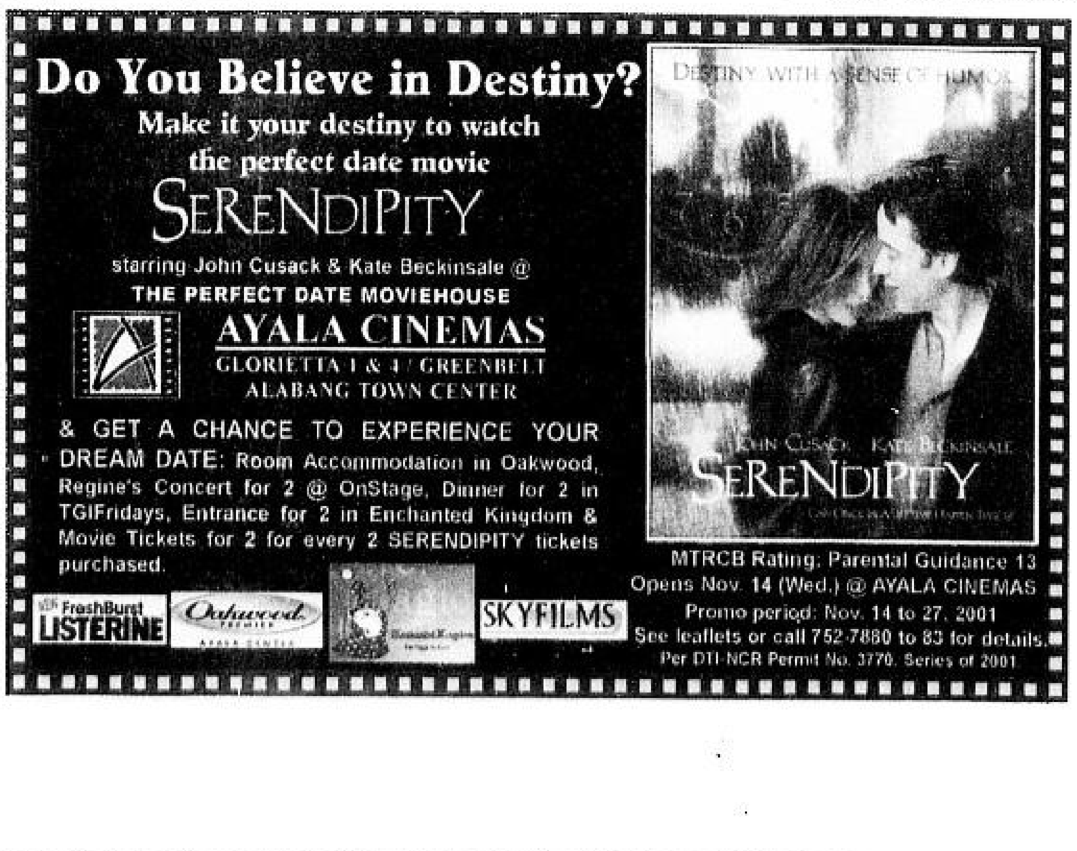
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Regine . . .

(From page A29)

Hence, the audience rewarded her with a thunderous applause when she did "Your Song," "One Day I'll Fly Away" and "Come What May."

It was my first time to watch a Regine concert with **Raul Mitra** as the musical director. I noticed Mitra's arrangements in some of the songs, which carried a different intro.

For instance, before Regine rendered "Say A Little Prayer" from "My Best Friend's Wedding," Mitra played an intro of a popular song from another **Julia Roberts** movie—"She" from "Notting Hill." Regine later sang the **Ronan Keating** hit, "When You Say Nothing at All," from the same movie.

Gabby Eigenmann was Regine's only guest in the show, who sang with her the **Huey Lewis-Gwyneth Paltrow** duet, "Cruisin'," from the film "Duets."

There are dozens of other beautiful love themes from the movies. In fact, Regine and her musical director missed out on the popular themes from the animated flicks. None of those songs made it in her repertoire, even the Oscar-winning ones like "A Whole New World" from "Aladdin" or "Beauty and the Beast."

But Regine wowed her audience even more with her other numbers like "Somewhere" ("West Side Story") and "Never Too Far" (from **Mariah Carey**'s "Glitter").

Who would have possibly complained after Regine's lung-power in the vocally challenging Aerosmith hit, "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing" (from "Armageddon"), which she chose to end the show with?

Certainly not me.

You can still catch "Regine at the Movies," produced by Maxi-Media International, this time at Onstage in Greenbelt, Nov. 23, 24, 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8, 15 and 16.

Can they do Lani?

LANI Misalucha was criticized for imitating several divas in her recent concert, "A Nightingale Sings," with an 80-piece orchestra at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Some critics said Lani had no style of her own and simply relied on the similarity of her voice to the voices of **Barbra Streisand, Whitney Houston** and **Zsa Zsa Padilla, Jaya** and **Pilita Corrales.**

Lani has a knack for imitating those singers. After all, she was once the "queen" of multiplex, recording their hits and sounding like the original singers, before she launched her solo singing career. So singing like them wasn't really a great effort on her part.

Is this why Lani was called a mynah bird instead of a nightingale? But that is what makes her different and versatile. She has her own style and technique, and her voice can have several nuances.

She can belt out a vocally challenging piece with remarkable ease, including the difficult aria "Nessun Dorma," which she did in her CCP show. Her voice can shift from throaty to falsetto. She can even whistle and make it part of her repertoire, with amusing effects.

Lani can imitate all the divas, but can any of them imitate her?

Pre-Christmas musical event

"FOUR Friends and a Lady," a pre-Christmas musical event presented by the Managing Events Gatherings Z(s)pecialist, goes onstage Dec. 15 at St. Cecilla's Hall of St. Scholastica's College Manila.

Four instrumentalists and a diva will make beautiful music in the show, made possible by Anne Lallave, president and executive producer of Managing Events and Gatherings Z(s)pecialist.

Featured artists are saxophonist Tots Tolentino, flutist Jong Cuenco, violinist John Lesaca, keyboardist Toti Fuentes and young diva Anna Fegi.

Robee Ronquillo will direct the show, with Fuentes as musical director. It is a benefit for the Philippine School for the Deaf.

Tickets are available at National Bookstore outlets, Robinson's Galleria, Tower Records and Ticket World (891-5610). For reservations, call 413-8757, 361-5041 or 536-9137.

FEATURED artists in "Four Friends and a Lady" are (from left) flutist Jong Cuenco, young diva Anna Fegi, keyboardist Toti Fuentes, saxophonist Tots Tolentino and violinist John Lesaca.

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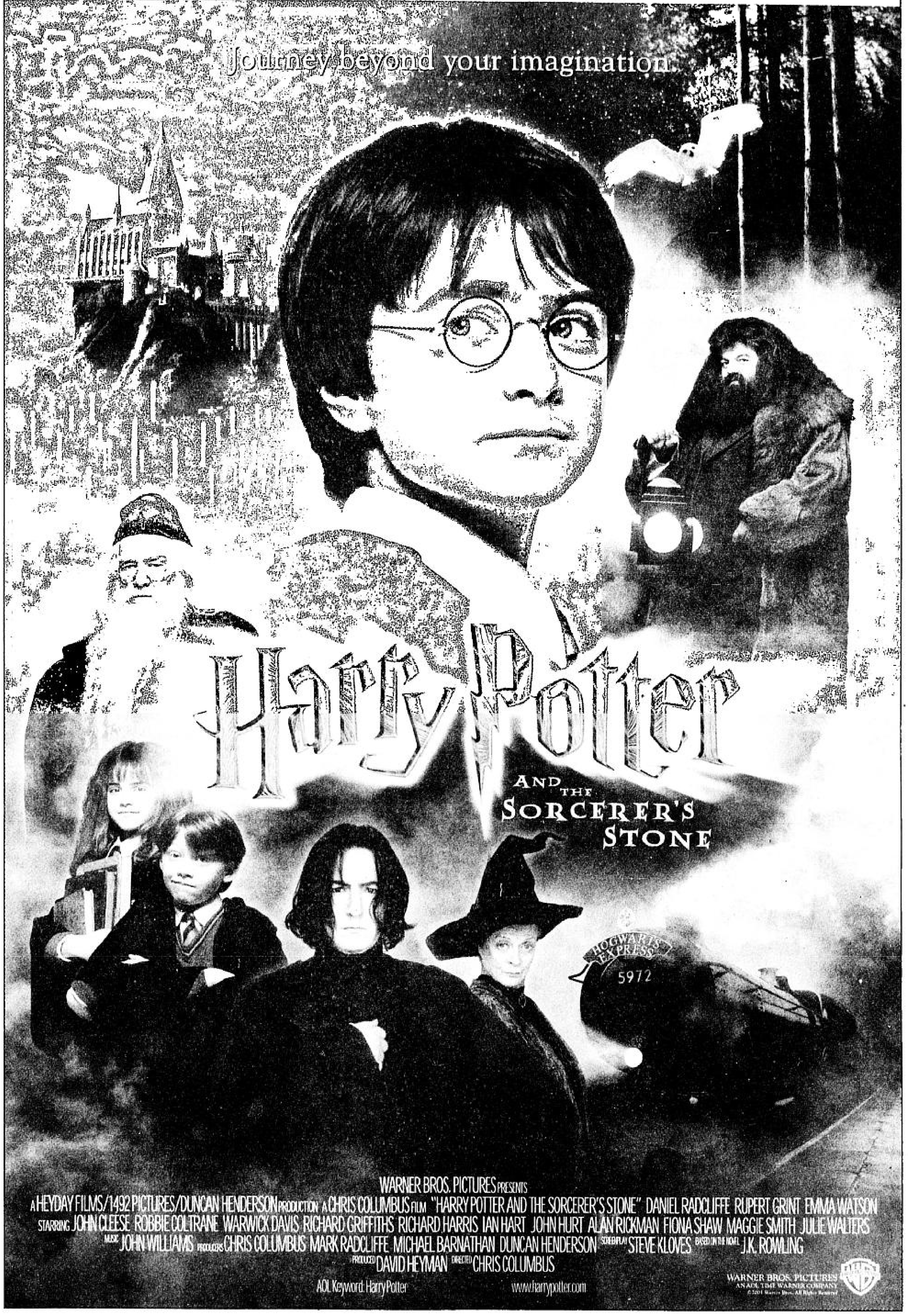

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HARRY POTTER - GP 12:05, 3:15, 6:25, 9:35	GLITTER - P 13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20

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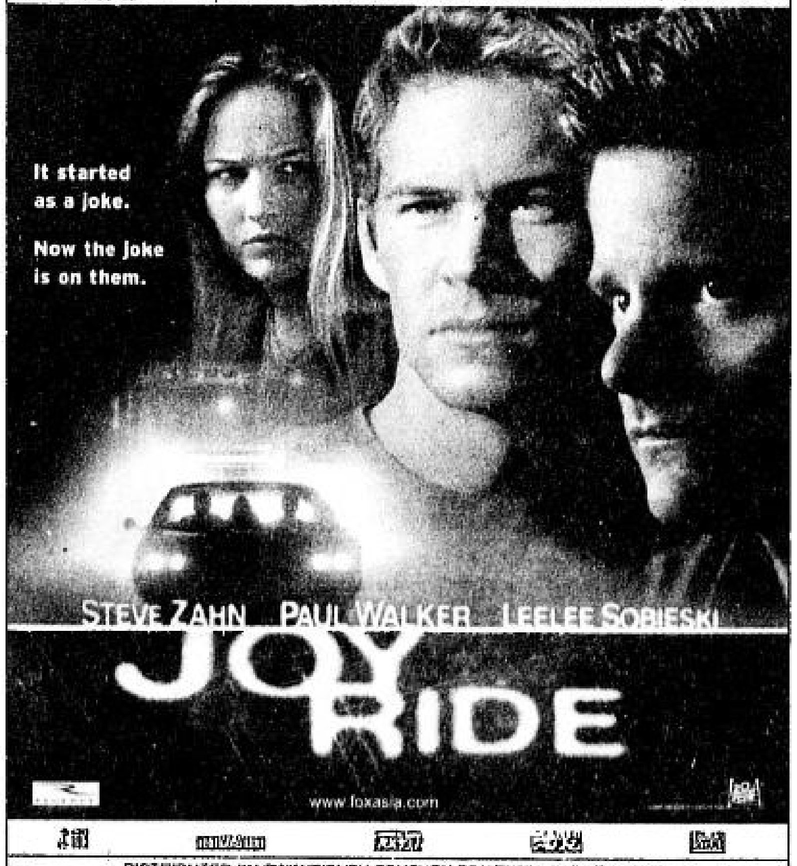
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

A day in the monastery with the Carmelite sisters

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I'M WRITING this column immediately after our return from a visit to the Carmelite monastery in Lipa, Batangas.

My mom had gone there to pray a couple of months back and the Carmelites had told her that they'd been fervently praying for **Josh**'s full recovery after his car accident.

My mom had promised them that she'd bring him there the next time she visited so that they could see him in person and she could pray our family's thanks for his good health.

Beside the monastery is the Shrine of Carmel of Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace. I'm convinced my son didn't suffer a worse fate because of my devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Inside the Church, I felt enveloped in peace and after praying my novena and rosary, I was filled with so much hope.

My mom has a very special relationship with both the Pink Sisters and the Carmelites. The cloistered sisters have always been a source of spiritual support for her. In fact, when the Edsa Revolution in 1986 broke out, we were in Cebu and the safest place for my mom to be was inside the Carmelite monastery there.

It's because of this bond that my mom is given the privilege to be able to go beyond the enclosure of the monastery and pray inside with the Carmelite sisters. We went to the exact spot within the enclosed area of the Monastery where in Sept. 12 to 26, 1948, the Apparition of Our Lady left messages for the Sisters. On Sept. 30, Oct. 3 and Nov. 11 of that year, showers of rose petals happened.

According to the leaflet distributed in the Shrine, on Friday, Nov. 12, 1948, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace made a final Apparition. Her message was simple. She was reiterating her message at Fatima. She asked the Sisters to pray for priests, help spread her devotion and make penances for those who don't believe.

She said, "When people come to pray and ask for graces, let them ask directly from me and not through you."

In January 1991, rose petal showers began again for **Teresing Castillo**. Some of the Sisters showed us the rose petals and the clear imprint of Mother Mary is so clear and visible, almost like a slide picture because the rose petal has to be held up to the light.

Near where the Apparition occurred, they've dug and installed a small fountain of flowing water coming from a well dug from deep below. A lot of people have attested to the water's healing powers.

My mom had to ask the Sisters to turn off the water momentarily because Josh was refusing to leave the flowing water. He drank a lot of it and it was so difficult for us to tear him away from the fountain.

The water which I also took a sip of, was naturally cool and it had a different flavor than normal drinking water, almost like there was a bit more mineral content.

In their garden within the monastery's enclosure, there was a feeling of serenity. The air was fresh and totally unpolluted. The trees and grass were very lush.

Josh felt so at home inside the monastery. He normally is wary of strangers but we were so surprised that he hugged all the Carmelite sisters and readily welcomed their affectionate kisses.

The Sisters make the supreme sacrifice of never leaving the monastery's enclosure, except for medical treatment. Families are allowed to visit but only during birthdays and Christmas, but they are always separated by metal grills.

The Sisters are allowed to read the newspapers, but radio and TV aren't allowed, except recently during the attack on the World Trade Center, they watched news reports because they had to be able to visualize distinctly the extent of the devastation to help them with their prayers.

Their life is devoted to prayer, seven times a day as a Community starting at 5 in the morning, for peace, reparation for man's sins, intentions of the Church and for the requests and petitions of all who seek their help.

While there, we included **Vandolph** and his girlfriend's full recovery in our prayers. The Sisters were very sympathetic and promised to really pray for the two, who are still in the ICU of the Makati Medical Center.

Vandolph is Josh's ninong and I've always had a soft spot for him. **Zsa Zsa**, his stepmother, is my Baclaran praying partner, and *Tito* **Dolphy** I know has been a Marian devotee for the longest time. In fact, he has been going to Baclaran every Wednesday for far longer than Zsa Zsa and I have been.

The Sisters were also aware of Vandolph's mom, **Ness'** illness and they said that all of them would be included in their intentions.

I was with the family Tuesday night after Vandolph's two sessions in the operating room, totaling nearly 11 hours. Three surgeons worked on his legs and arm, as well as attaching the metal plate to connect his pelvic bones.

When the surgeons came in to tell Tito Dolphy that Vandolph had done very well all throughout the surgery, his blood pressure and vital signs all holding steady and that they were now more confident about his chances at a full recovery because of his youth and his strong will to survive, all of us present got teary eyed, seeing the unabashed tears of relief streaming down the face of Tito Dolphy.

As parents, nothing hurts more than seeing your child suffer. Having your child almost at the brink of death will kill any parent's heart.

Vandolph and his girlfriend still have a long road to recovery ahead of them. They, and their families really need our continued prayers and support.

I've always believed that with faith and prayers, in God, through the Intercession of Mama Mary, all good things are possible. And nothing could be better than giving a 16-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy the chance to continue their healthy lives to fulfill all the promise and potential that their young lives hold.

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AMONG the young news and public-affairs talents currently being given good breaks by ABS-CBN is **Aljo Bendijo**. He's seen week nights on "TV Patrol" and now hosts a new show every Saturday, "Sapul Kayo D'yan."

The new program is reality-based in the sense that it uses video footage of actual events, the more dramatic and shocking, the better. On its first telecast two weeks ago, it featured footage on a would-be assassin's attack on **Imelda Marcos**, the "charge to the death" of some cult members last year, video shots of an earthquake in progress, etc.

In addition, the program encourages viewers to send in their home video footage of unusual or topical events, video-eyewitness accounts, etc. The idea appears to be to make the program a venue for reality-TV shots, video vignettes, etc., depicting life at its most unusual, exciting or dramatic.

Well and good, but the show is poorly hosted by Bendijo. He may be tall and goodlooking, but he still needs to fully understand what TV newscasting and program hosting are *really* about.

Both on "TV Patrol" and "Sapul Kayo D'yan," Bendijo relies too much on *porma* and a deep, dramatic "radio" voice that makes the most ordinary report sound self-consciously important and portentous.

More than that, he isn't satisfied to give each of his utterances booming "voice box" treatment, but often adds an "echo" syllable to certain words, for even more exaggerated dramatic flourish.

Fact is, Bendijo did not invent this weird way of talking. For years now, some *ma-drama* announcers and reporters on radio have also talked this way, to lend artificial importance to the events they narrate or report on. The sad thing is that people like Bendijo have transplanted this cheap radio shtick to national TV, where people are supposed to know better.

The bottom line is, news reportage is supposed to be as objective and uncolored an account as possible, so vocal "color" and "drama" like this are unacceptable and unprofessional, on radio, and especially on TV.

So, young talents like Bendijo should reassess their attitudes and performance before more listeners and viewers give up on them. Instead, they should work on the *really* important stuff: completely understanding what they're reporting on, not just the facts but also their ramifications, and to communicate this understanding to their audience, as clearly and objectively as possible.

They have to convince themselves that *they* are not important, the *news* is. So, they should stop worrying about how they look and sound, and fret more about whether they have what it takes to be broadcast journalists in the real meaning of those words.

If they are able to make this essential reevaluation, it's possible that they could still do professional work and redeem themselves in the eyes of viewers who know what TV news and public affairs programs should be. Hope springs!

Vocal concert

TENOR **Gary del Rosario** will be the featured singer in a special concert at 7:30 p.m. today, Nov. 23, at Equitable-PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall. Del Rosario will sing well-loved pieces by Handel, Mozart, Puccini, Gounod and Verdi, **Regalado Jose** accompanying.

The concert is a presentation of the Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation, Equitable PCI Bank and dzFE 98.7. Call 818-1403.

'Ang Hinaharap'

AT 10 tonight, Studio 23 airs "Ang Hinaharap 2001," a telethon to raise funds and awareness needed in the fight against breast cancer. The good is to raise P5 million for the Philippine Breast Cancer Network. Hosts include **Korina Sanchez**, **Pia Hontiveros**, **Mari Kaimo**, **Cheryl Cosim**, **Julius Babao**, **Tintin Bersola** and **Jullie Yap-Daza**, and live performances will be rendered by **Robert Sena**, **Isay Alvarez**, **Dessa**, **Jamie Rivera** and **Bituin Escalante**.

'Oh, Grow Up'

STUDIO 23 premieres a new sitcom, "Oh, Grow Up," at 9:30 p.m. today. The comedy series shows what happens when a successful single suddenly finds an 18-year-old daughter he never knew he had standing on his doorsteps.

To keep the comedy bubbling, the "retroactive father's" roommates include a yuppie-turned-painter and a formerly married man who has realized his true gender preference.

'BIYAHENG LANGIT'

Veteran broadcaster Rey Langit taped a special episode of his tele-magazine show, "Biyaheng Langit," from the People's Republic of China, as part of the country's exchange program with the Kapisanan ng mga Broadkasters ng Pilipinas (KBP) national chapter. It will be aired tomorrow, Nov. 24, 3 p.m. on RPN 9. Langit hosts the show with his son, Reyster.

EARLY YULETIDE BASH

The "Crossover Live" series features Dye Vest in a one-night party dubbed as "Early Christmas Bash," for the delegates of the National Advertising Congress in Cebu City tonight, at the H2O Bar at the Waterfront Hotel. The show is presented by 93.1 Crossover Cebu. Dye Vest will render a varied repertoire of dance, R&B and Crossover tunes.

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Budget deficit falls below ceiling

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE MACAPAGAL administration posted a budget deficit of P133.3 billion in the 10 months to October, well below the official ceiling, the finance department announced yesterday.

It said cutbacks in spending kept the deficit 3.2 percent below the P137.7-billion ceiling originally set for the first 10 months of the year.

As in previous months, tight spending again saved the government from exceeding its deficit target for the first 10 months of the year as expenditures stood at only P592.237 billion or P5.92 billion lower than a spending program of P598.157 billion.

The savings from a lower disbursement from January to October were used to offset a P1.536-billion shortfall in revenue collection to only P458.918 billion compared with a target of P460.454 billion.

"At this point, I see no reason why we should be unable to maintain program levels (for the deficit) for the remaining months of the year," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

The government has pledged to keep its full-year budget deficit at P145 billion. In the nine months to September, the deficit exceeded the ceiling by 1.6 percent.

"At the home stretch, the 10-month fiscal numbers continue to reflect our fiscal discipline policy," Camacho said.

The finance chief had insisted that the administration would not exceed its P145-billion target despite a continued shortfall in revenue collection, including the government's failure to produce P10 billion in privatization earnings.

Camacho said the government was counting on the proceeds of a P15-billion bond issue of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. in December to replace the programmed revenue from privatization mainly of the remaining 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co.

The government, he said, would get as much as P13 billion in dividends from the Philippine Estates Authority once Pagcor has used the proceeds from the bond issue to buy about 60 hectares of land from the PEA.

The PEA infusion, Camacho said, should be enough to plug any shortfall in revenue collection.

As of October, the Bureau of Customs had posted the biggest collection deficiency of P4.37 billion as it earned only P80.98 billion against a target of P85.35 billion.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue had limited its shortfall to P2.933 billion with earnings of P320.203 billion falling below the target of P323.136 billion. In October alone, the BIR narrowly missed its target when it delivered P37.307 billion against a target that was P2 million higher.

In contrast, Customs collection in October was P934 million short of the P9.642-billion target.

The Bureau of Treasury again surpassed its target by P2.203 billion in October alone to deliver earnings of P3.249 billion. In the first 10 months, the Treasury's collection was already P11.326 billion higher than its target of P21.653 billion.

"Despite the global uncertainty that is putting pressure on our economy, our fiscal management program is holding up," Camacho said.

BUDGET/ B5

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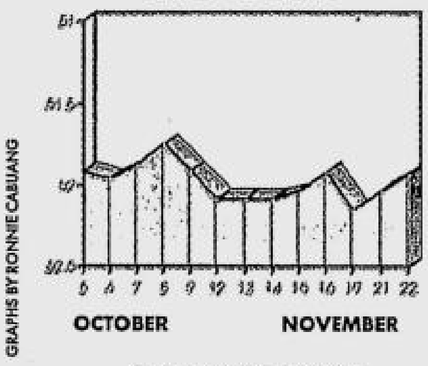

GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

P51.94 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 22, 2001

¥123.22 = $1
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Nov. 22, 2001

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STOCK MARKET

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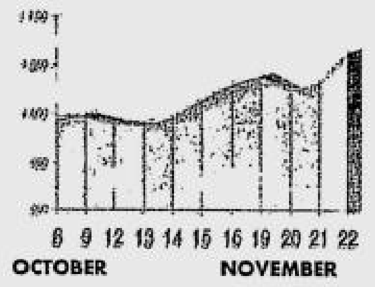

(See stock market report on Page B5)

Shares surge 3.2%

SHARES closed sharply higher yesterday as confidence returned to the market following the successful US visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 33.20 points, or 3.2 percent, at 1,067.06, its highest closing level since Oct. 5, 2001, when the index finished at 1,088.44.

"Market sentiment improved after (newspaper) reports came out that there will be an expected inflow of as much as $4.6 billion as a result of the US visit of President Macapagal," said A&A Securities analyst Don Malabanan.

Traders said buying was across the board as both foreign and local investors took advantage of the aid pledge and an encouraging budget deficit figure.

Turnover reflected the market enthusiasm, reaching P708.06 million, up sharply from P570.40 million on Wednesday.

Equitable PCI Trust fund manager Edison Yap said along with the aid pledge, many local investors leaped into the market to take advantage of attractive valuations offered by many oversold large-caps. *AP, Reuters*

Kuok sells subsidiaries

PROPERTY holding and investment firm Kuok Philippine Properties Inc. is unloading its stake in subsidiary KPPI Land Corp. as part of measures to cushion against the slump in property prices.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, KPPI corporate secretary Federico Noel said the company's board has authorized the sale or transfer of equity, deposits and shareholder advances in KPPI Land "under terms and conditions reasonable and in the best interest of the corporation."

KPPI Land is a property developer with a 60-percent stake in a joint venture formed with Manila Jockey Club Inc. to develop a world-class racetrack in Carmona, Cavite. MJIC is planning to relocate its San Lazaro racetrack outside of Metro Manila.

Kuok Properties is engaged in property holding and investments. It has a 26-percent stake in Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. and various subsidiaries.

BSP keeps rates unchanged

THE BANGKO Sentral's policy-making Monetary Board decided to keep benchmark overnight interest rates unchanged at its weekly meeting yesterday, officials said.

"No change (in the overnight rates)," deputy governor Alberto Reyes told reporters waiting for the decision.

The rates are currently at a four-year low—at 8.25 percent for overnight borrowing and 10.5 percent for overnight lending.

The government has been concerned that aggressive rate cuts could undermine the peso and in response to US cuts of 1.5 percentage points since Sept. 11, has reduced its own rates by only 75 basis points in the same period. *Reuters*

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GSI AT	P675,000	P155,000		P18,750	P15,250
Ghia MT	P730,000	P165,000		P19,500	P16,000
Ghia AT	P765,000	P175,000		P20,500	P16,750

RANGER

UNIT	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT		INSTALLMENT 36 mos.	INSTALLMENT 48 mos.
XL 4x2	P644,000	P150,000	PAY 90 DAYS AFTER	P19,000	P15,250
2.9 XLT	P738,000	P170,000		P20,000	P16,250
Trekker	P805,000	P190,000		P23,250	P19,000
XLT 4x4	P980,000	P200,000		P27,250	P22,500

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Ford Quezon Avenue, Quezon Avenue corner Apo Street, Quezon City; Tel nos. [illegible]
Ford Cabanatuan, Maharlika Highway, Sumacab Este, Cabanatuan City; Tel No. [illegible]
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Ford Bacolod, Araneta St., Barangay Singcang, Bacolod City; Telefax No. [illegible]
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Ford Davao, Km. 6, Lanang, Davao City; Tel. No. [illegible]

Gov't body freezes bank accounts of stock trader

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE ANTI-MONEY Laundering Council has ordered five banks to freeze over P18 million worth of deposits connected with Price Richardson Corp., an alleged boiler room operator engaged in fraudulent sale of securities.

In a move to crack down on boiler room operators in the country, a 35-member composite team consisting of representatives from the Securities and Exchange Commission, National Bureau of Investigation and Interpol last Friday raided six offices of Price Richardson in three buildings in Makati.

Armed with a search warrant, the team found documents and other evidence indicating that the company was engaged in defrauding investors of money through the unlicensed sale of securities, SEC compliance and enforcement department acting director Tomas Syquia said in a press conference yesterday.

Syquia added that the team found documents pointing to a certain Ayala Alabang resident, Consuelo Velarde-Albert, as the company's head.

The AMLC served Tuesday the order freezing P18 million worth of deposits in HSBC, Citibank N.A., China Banking Corp. and two other banks. The freeze order came just in time to prevent Velarde-Albert's attempt to withdraw the amount on the same day the order was served, Syquia said.

"It's the first case and first freeze order issued by the council," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said.

Bautista, together with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura and Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Mailinis, form the three-member AMLC.

The freeze order is good for only 15 days but the court can order an extension. It covers P300,000 and $99,000 in deposits under the account of Velarde-Albert, $154,000 under the account of Price Richardson and $100,000 under the name of one of the alleged boiler room operator's salesmen.

Earlier, Syquia said that after a CDO against Price Richardson was issued, the corporate watchdog would charge its officials and personnel for violating the country's Securities Regulation Code and Anti-Money Laundering Act.

The AMLA, signed into law last Sept. 30, declares money laundering a criminal act. Attempts to conceal the identity of funds from illegal activities are also considered a crime.

Syquia said the AMLC would ask the court to extend the freeze order over the lifetime of the case against Price Richardson et al.

Clark industrial estate expanding

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILEXCEL Industrial Park Inc. is spending P1.169 billion to expand its industrial estate at the Clark Special Economic Zone as the foreign property builder remained optimistic on the prospects of the country's exports despite the prevailing downturn.

Philexcel will develop 36 hectares of property in Clark to expand its industrial park from 8 ha to 44 ha starting June next year. The company has a 50-year lease agreement with the Clark Development Authority.

The project will be implemented in two phases. The first involves the establishment of a new business center and a business incubator, while the second covers the construction of manufacturing buildings.

International property developer Colliers Jardine has been tapped to handle the expansion project and the marketing of the project in Asia, America and Europe. The company will target mostly light to medium manufacturing firms.

While the Board of Investments granted the project non-pioneer status, Philexcel would still be eligible for pioneer incentives because its project site, Pampanga, was considered a less-developed area under the 2001 investment priorities plan. This year's IPP encourages investors to put up their businesses in areas outside Metro Manila and the urban centers.

Aside from the project expansion, Philexcel has initiated a series of improvements including upgrading existing roads and other infrastructure, installing a fiber optic telecommunication system, constructing a business center and support facilities, and providing facilities to workers such as a health clinic and recreation centers.

Philexcel is banking on its park's strategic location to lure investors into locating in the industrial estate. The area is accessible to its market as well as to suppliers through land and air, and eventually by sea when the Clark-Subic expressway is completed.

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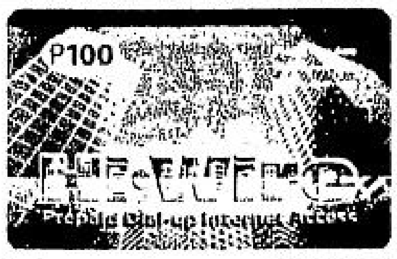

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COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

BESET by plunging post-Sept. 11 traffic, Northwest Airlines has further dropped its Manila-New York roundtrip economy fare to an eye-popping $299.

The offer is being made available only to Philippine-based Northwest Worldperks (the airline's frequent fliers' club) members, who have to add 20,000 miles to avail themselves of the rock-bottom rate.

In addition to New York, the Pinoy-rich West Coast cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle are also included in the $299+20,000 miles *gimik*.

For those who do not want to mix with the cattle class, the business class fare for the same routes has likewise been slashed to $750+30,000 miles.

Unlike the usual cheap tickets, flight and date changes are permitted even after ticketing, provided that travel is completed by Jan. 31, 2002.

And unlike the usual *el cheapos*, travel to the United States is permitted even during the rush Yuletide dates, usually beginning Dec. 15. What is not permitted is return travel to Manila from Dec. 7-28, when Philippine-bound flights are choking with *balikbayans*.

Like all other promos, Northwest has imposed a number of restrictions, including the number of seats that may be availed of. For instance, the business class section for the Dec. 15 and 22 Manila-Tokyo-New York JFK flights have already been booked solid.

But the rest of the flight dates are, as of yesterday, still "wide open" in both classes, according to the airline reservation.

Sadly, because it is still undergoing rehabilitation, our own Philippine Airlines could not match such close-to-dumping rates.

The best that PAL could offer is $760-RT economy to San Francisco and Los Angeles for travel out of Manila from Dec. 1-15, and $910 for Dec. 16-31. The advantage of these tickets—PAL is still the only airline offering non-stop flights to the West Coast out of Manila—is their one-year return validity.

Crooked bankers

THE ASIATRUST Bank branch in Bacoor, Cavite, has apparently been harboring crooks in its midst.

The bank branch has been pinpointed as ground zero for clearing fraudulent auto-repair payments in the province.

At least a dozen checks, totaling more than P1 million, have been deposited and cleared by the Bacoor branch to a Cavite syndicate using fraudulent repair claims forwarded to an unwitting Makati-based insurance company.

COCKTALES/ B4

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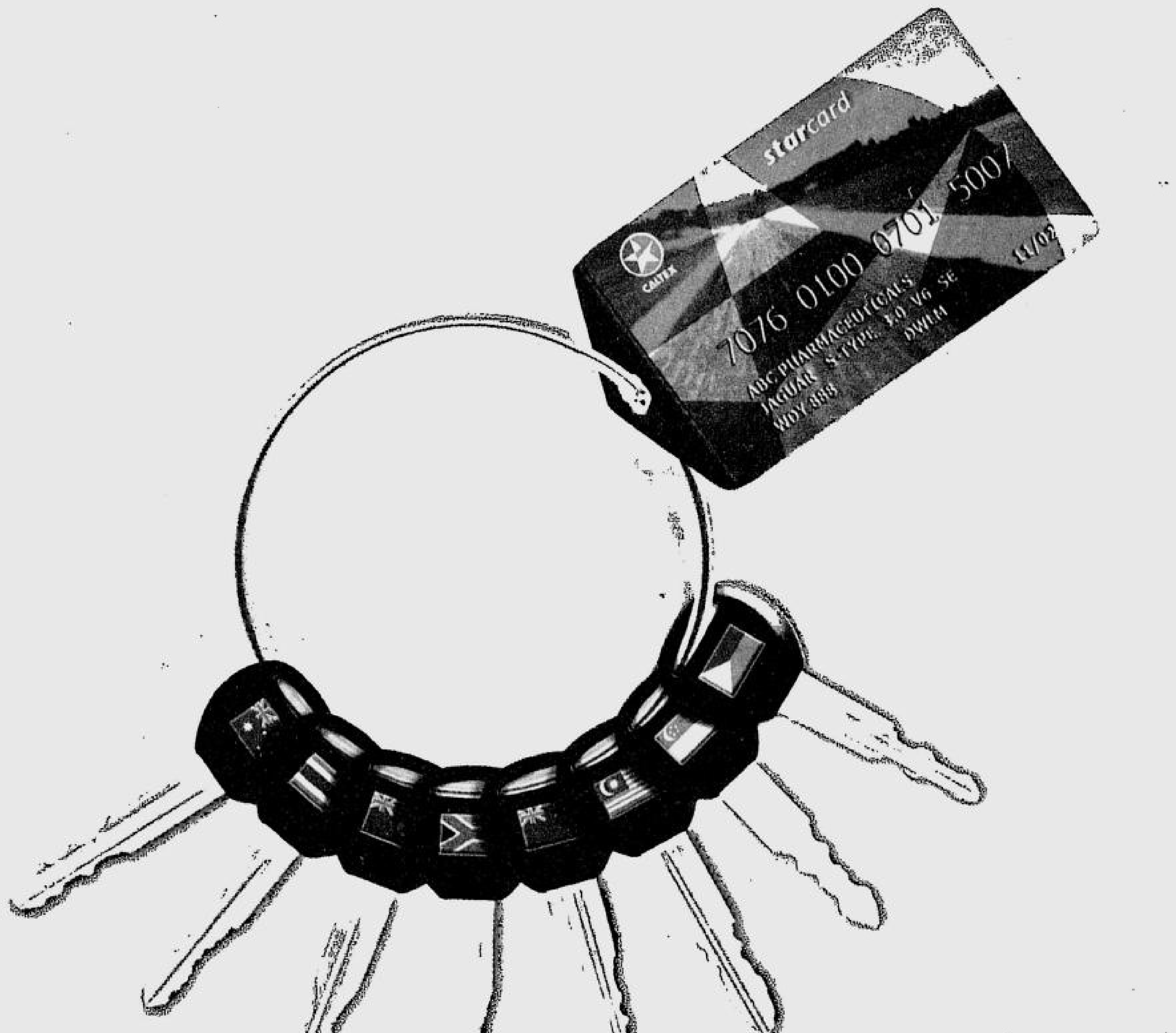

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What Drives You CALTEX

Lafayette seen signing $35-M deal

By Christine A. Gaylican

LAFAYETTE (Philippines) Inc. is finalizing a $35-million deal to develop its mining site in Rapu Rapu, Albay, company country manager Rod Watt said yesterday.

Watt said in a news conference that Lafayette had already obtained an environmental compliance certificate and completed a feasibility study, and was now in final discussions with its creditor, Standard Bank of London Ltd.

"Last October, Resource Service Group Pty. Ltd., acting on behalf of our bank in London, has completed an audit of the project and, according to its report, finds it technically and economically feasible," Watt said.

Lafayett's Rapu Rapu mine is capable of producing 35,000 metric tons of copper-gold concentrates and 29,000 MT of zinc each year, generating some $300 million in revenues for the Philippine government over a period of six to seven years.

Another mining company, Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., meanwhile, announced that it had sought government approval to start construction of a $150-million nickel processing plant next year in a joint venture with Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd.

"We are seeking an environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources," Rio Tuba pollution control officer Romeo Amat told Reuters on the sidelines of a mining conference.

"If this is approved within the year, our time table is to start construction of the processing plant in the first quarter of 2002," he added. *With a report from Reuters*

Indon group eyes NPC assets

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE INDONESIAN Coal Mining Association is considering bidding for one of the National Power Corp.'s coal-fired power plants.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said early this week that the government broached the possibility of giving ICMA a guaranteed market in the Philippines.

The group consists of seven coal firms in Indonesia.

"We invited ICMA to consider bidding for either the Calaca or Masinloc plant. Through this, they can be competitive in terms of (generation) costs," Perez explained.

Each of the two power plants, the former in Batangas and the latter in Zambales, has a generating capacity of 600 megawatts.

Perez said the memorandum of understanding between Napocor and ICMA would look into the possibility of direct trading between the two parties.

This will remove all brokers or middlemen between coal mines and coal plants, he said.

"(Such an arrangement may enable Napocor to buy coal) at a price of at least 10 percent less than what Napocor currently gets from the international market," Perez said.

Ad congress seen lifting Cebu economy

By Irene R. Sino Cruz

CEBU CITY—The 17th Philippine Advertising Congress is expected to pour in about P60 million into Cebu's economy.

Sources said for accommodations alone, hotels where delegates were billeted, would earn about P20 million.

On top of the accommodations, hotels will also earn millions from lunches and dinners hosted by various sponsors.

The event will also benefit shopping malls, souvenir shops and nightspots.

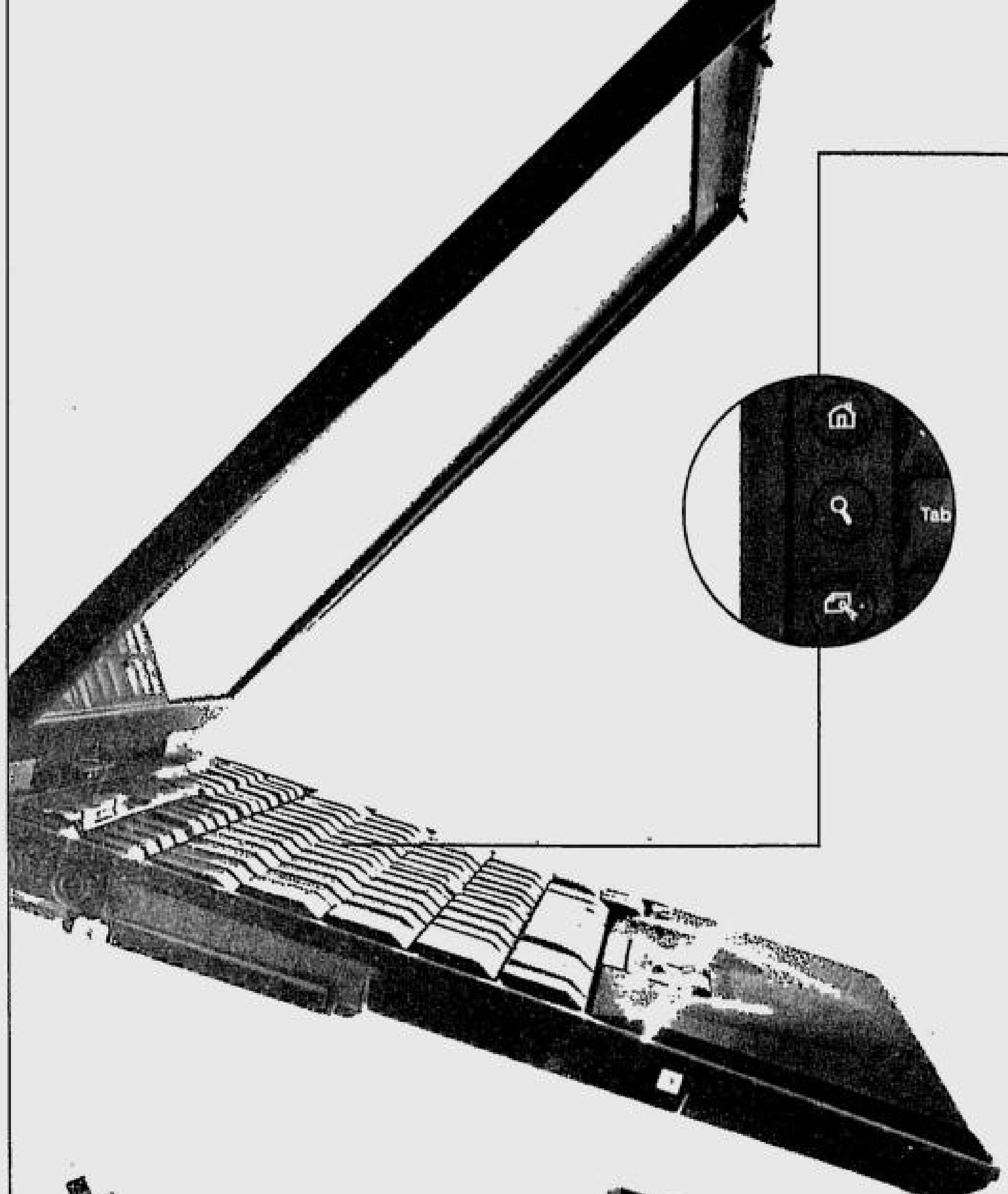
Lilu Aliño of Creatron Ads said having the event held here showed for the second straight time that Cebu was an ideal site for conventions.

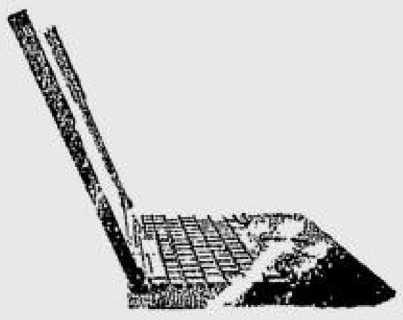
"Cebu has all the elements needed for a good convention site. This is a good sign for us. Just this week, we expect revenues for the tourism industry which has been suffering from slow traffic for the past weeks," Aliño said.

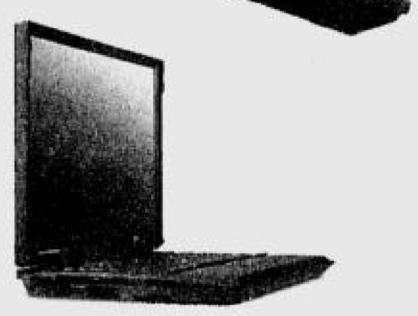
Patria Aurora Roa, regional director of the Department of Tourism, cited the significance of Cebu's hosting the biennial event.

"The holding of the Ad Congress in Cebu shows that the province is the MICE (meetings, incentive, convention and exhibition) destination," Roa said.

She said the "MICE market" had been making Cebu hotels and resorts alive.







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Cocktales

(From page B3)

Based on the fraudulent claims, Fortune Insurance paid the claimed repair bills to different payees whose common denominator is a Cavite auto repair shop.

Despite being under the name of different payees, all the checks somehow had been cleared and paid to another depositor through the Asiatrust Bacoor branch.

Soul food for Pinoys

POPEYES, a chicken-based fast-food chain that originated in the US Southwest and popular among black- and Fil-Americans, is finally coming to the Philippines with the opening of a store today in, of all places, SM South Mall in Las Piñas.

A second store is slated for opening next Friday all the way in Robinsons Metro East in Cainta.

The local franchise was originally held by Vitarich, but because of its debt problem, the agribusiness conglomerate failed to launch not even a single store. According to the grapevine, Vitarich eventually sold the franchise to Bernadine Siy, who operates the Kenny Rogers chain here.

Heard through the grapevine

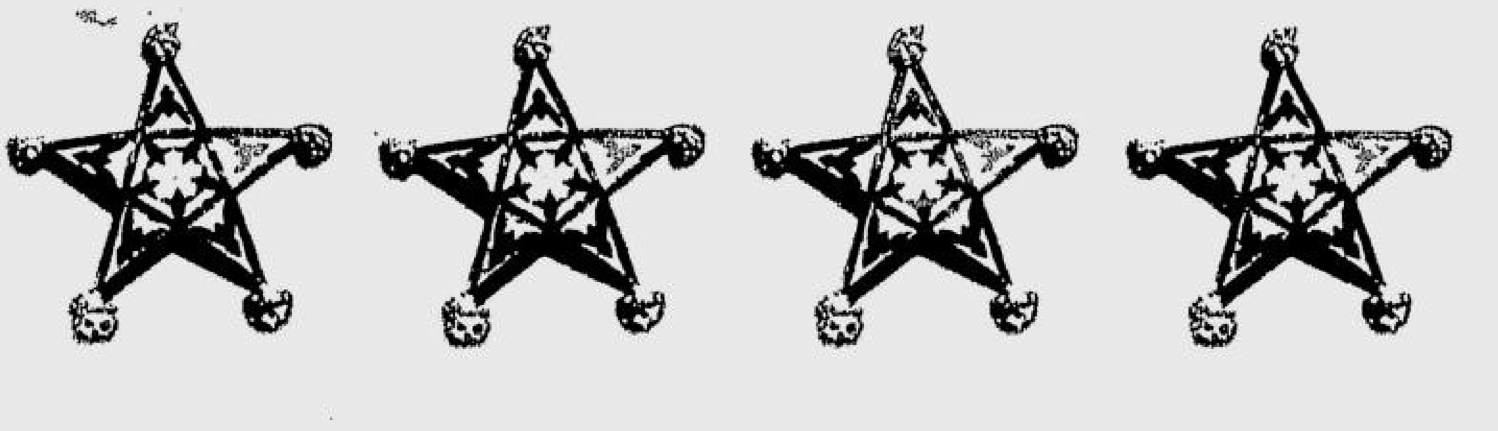
AFTER spinning off Islacom, the Delgados are returning to the business with the impending acquisition of the telephone franchise of Verizon in the US territory of Saipan.

For the venture, the Delgados have partnered 50-50 with Saipan-based Filipino garments exporter, the low-key Willy Tan of Leun Thai Holdings.

Tan has a big garments factory in Capas, Tarlac, also under the name of Leun Thai.

Barring any unforeseen hitches, the Filipino venture is set to assume control of the Saipan telephone company by Jan. 1.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdl@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdl@hotmail.com.)



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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, November 22, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	7,000
Bank of the Phil Islands	48	51	48	50	820,500
China Banking Corp.	510	510	510	510	24,000
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18.25	18.75	18.25	18.25	240,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	168	180	168	180	74,870
Philippine National Bank	47	48	47	48	270,500
Security BankCorp.	16	17.5	16	17.5	10,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	12	13.5	12	13.5	247,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	100,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.31	0.27	0.31	210,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	220	220	220	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1300	1300	1300	500
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1130	1130	1105	1105	19,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	24.75	24.75	6,300
Diversified Fin. Network	5.2	7.3	5.1	7.3	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.33	2,830,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	575	570	570	52,420
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	30,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	4,000,000
Piltel	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	320,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	385	390	385	390	38,970
Hiiweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.019	0.017	0.019	262,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	22.75	22	22.5	909,600
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28.5	26.5	27.5	2,967,200
Petron Corp.	1.28	1.38	1.28	1.32	15,353,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.4	1.52	1.38	1.52	13,772,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	2,290,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.02	2.1	2.02	2.1	114,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	111,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	171,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	3,100
RFM Corp.	1.82	1.94	1.82	1.94	86,536,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	41.5	40.5	41	225,200
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	52	51.5	51.5	289,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	6,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	60,000
Ayala Corp.	4.25	4.55	4.25	4.5	11,293,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	37,000,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	1,900
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.56	1,160,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.46	0.46	100,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	210,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.59	0.53	0.59	21,030,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.044	0.049	0.044	0.045	14,200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	580,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.9	0.92	0.9	0.92	210,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	8,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.25	24	23.25	24	245,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	300,000
Ionics Inc.	5.8	6	5.7	5.7	247,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.63	0.59	0.63	6,770,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	21,540,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.39	0.32	0.39	18,050,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.36	2,450,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	4,160,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.23	0.25	2,100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	15,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.78	510,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10	10	10	440,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.47	0.43	0.45	920,000
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Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	6,800,000
Interport Res.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
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Budget . . .

(From page B1)

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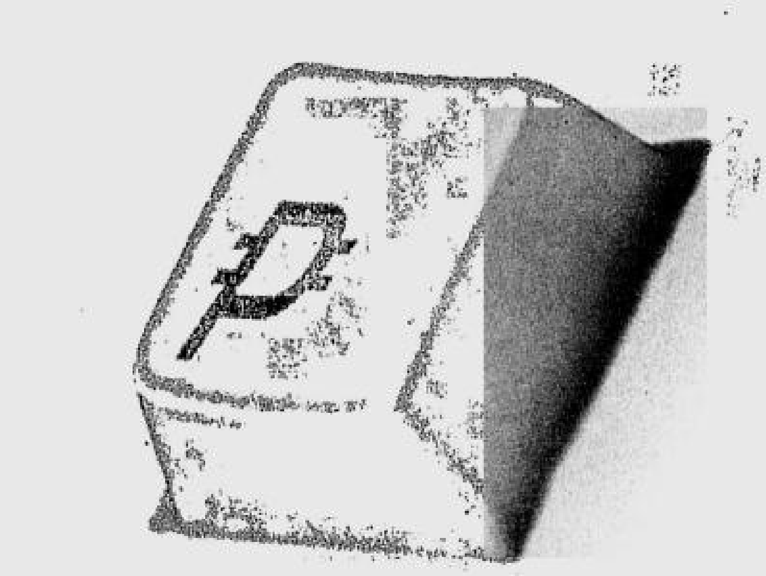
GROMAX SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH KAYCEE OF UK

With Gromax, Inc.'s appointment by Vineland Laboratories, USA as the sole distributor of Vineland's poultry vaccine and to finally bring the availability and the usage of this newest addition in their product line to the market, Gromax, Inc. has signed up an agreement with KAYCEE VETERENARY PRODUCTS, Ltd. of the United Kingdom for the procurement of vaccinator equipments.

In this particular alliance with leading companies, Gromax Inc. is confident that they can provide reliable and efficient poultry health protection available to their market.

Present during the celebrated Signing of Agreement (MOA) on October 18, 2001 in London, England are: (L-R) MR. WILFREDO M. ANGELES (General Manager of Gromax, Inc.), MR. TIM SESSEMAN (Managing Director of Kaycee Veterenary Products, Ltd.) and MR. ARMANDO B. ESCOBAR (President, Vitarich Corporation).



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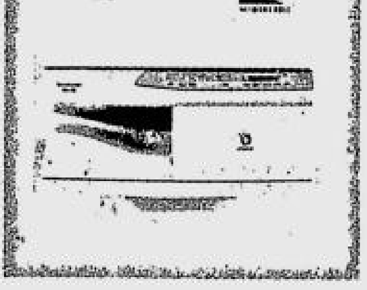

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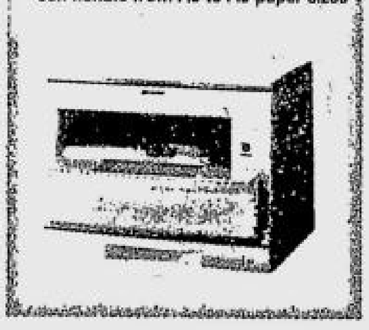

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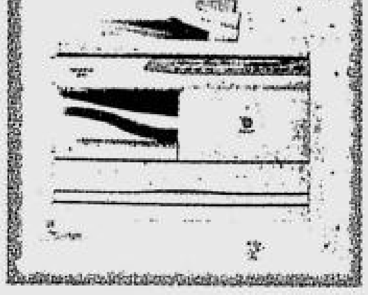

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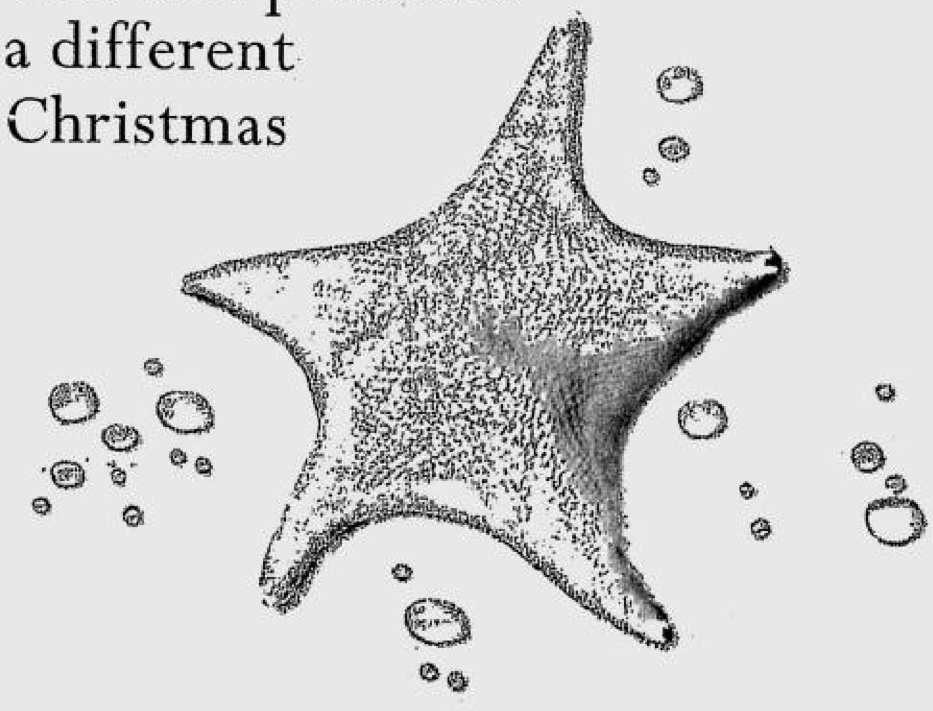

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, November 22, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	7,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	51	48	50	820,500
China Banking Corp.	510	510	510	510	24,000
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18.25	18.75	18.25	18.25	240,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	168	180	168	180	74,870
Philippine National Bank	47	48	47	48	270,500
Security Bank Corp.	16	17.5	16	17.5	10,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	12	13.5	12	13.5	247,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	100,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.31	0.27	0.31	210,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	220	220	220	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1300	1300	1300	500
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1130	1130	1105	1105	19,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	24.75	24.75	6,300
Diversified Fin. Network	5.2	7.3	5.1	7.3	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.33	2,830,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	575	570	570	52,420
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	30,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	4,000,000
Piltel	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	320,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	385	390	385	390	38,970
Hilweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.019	0.017	0.019	262,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	22.75	22	22.5	909,600
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28.5	26.5	27.5	2,967,200
Petron Corp.	1.28	1.38	1.28	1.32	15,353,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.4	1.52	1.38	1.52	13,772,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	2,290,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.02	2.1	2.02	2.1	114,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	111,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	171,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	3,100
RFM Corp.	1.82	1.94	1.82	1.94	86,536,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	41.5	40.5	41	225,200
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	52	51.5	51.5	289,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	6,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	60,000
Ayala Corp.	4.25	4.55	4.25	4.5	11,293,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	37,000,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	1,900
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.56	1,160,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.46	0.46	100,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	210,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.59	0.53	0.59	21,030,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.044	0.049	0.044	0.045	14,200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	580,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.9	0.92	0.9	0.92	210,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	8,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.25	24	23.25	24	245,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	300,000
Ionics Inc.	5.8	6	5.7	5.7	247,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.63	0.59	0.63	6,770,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	21,540,000
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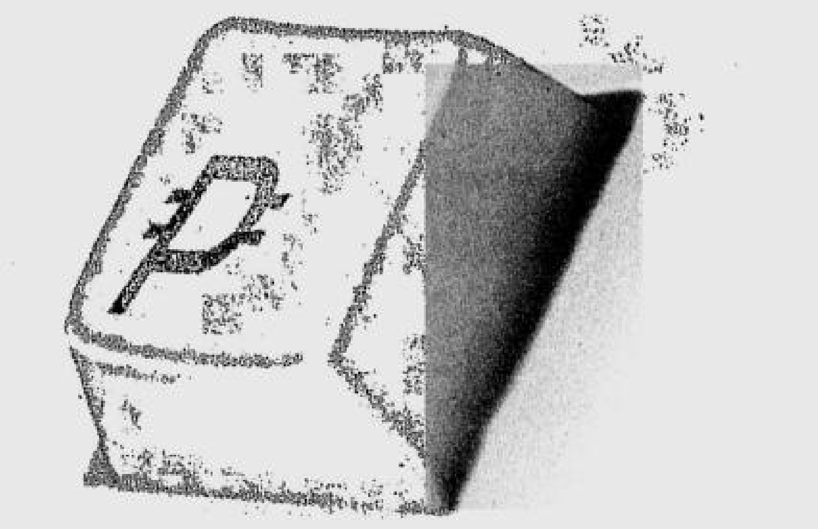

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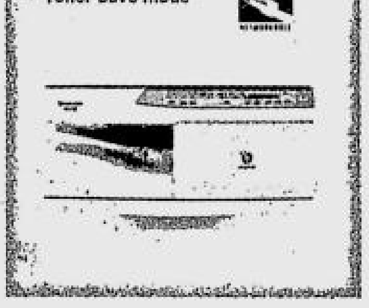

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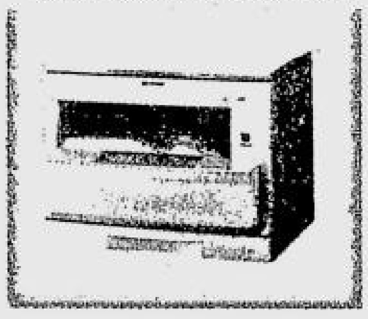

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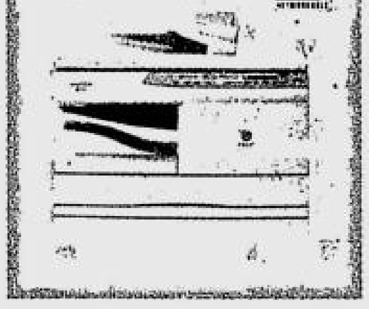

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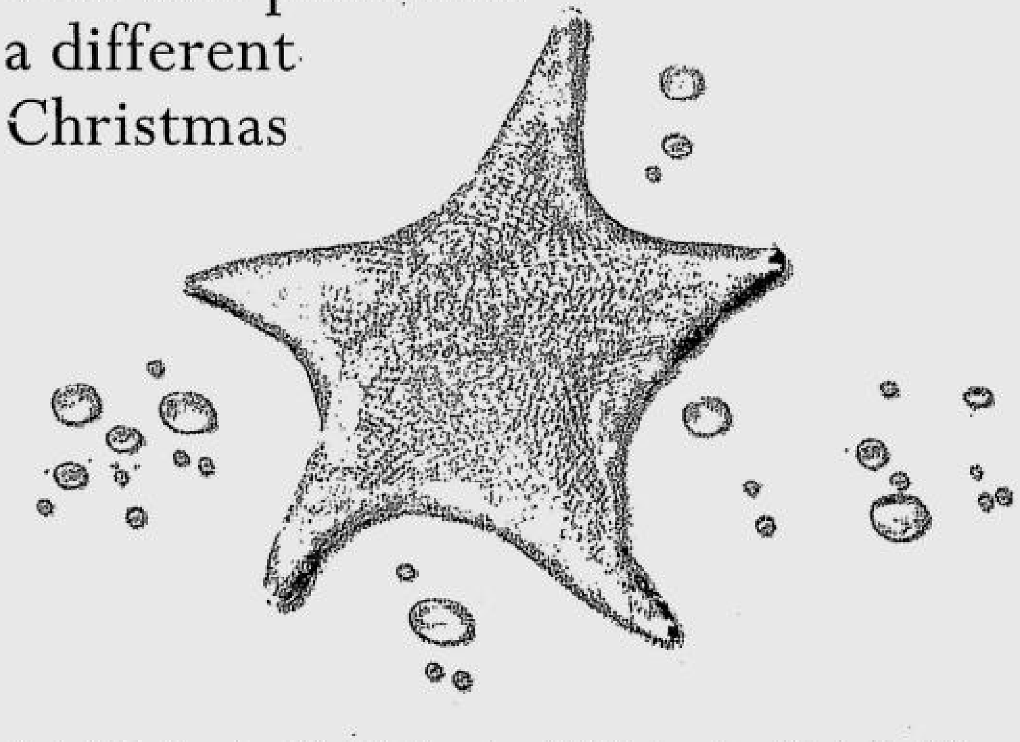

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GROMAX SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH KAYCEE OF UK

With Gromax, Inc.'s appointment by Vineland Laboratories, USA as the sole distributor of Vineland's poultry vaccine and to finally bring the availability and the usage of this newest addition in their product line to the market, Gromax, Inc. has signed up an agreement with KAYCEE VETERENARY PRODUCTS, Ltd. of the United Kingdom for the procurement of vaccinator equipments.

In this particular alliance with leading companies, Gromax Inc. is confident that they can provide reliable and efficient poultry health protection available to their market.

Present during the celebrated Signing of Agreement (MOA) on October 18, 2001 in London, England are: (L-R) MR. WILFREDO M. ANGELES (General Manager of Gromax, Inc.), MR. TIM SESSEMAN (Managing Director of Kaycee Veterenary Products, Ltd.) and MR. ARMANDO B. ESCOBAR (President, Vitarich Corporation).

PHILIPPINE DIABETES ASSOCIATION, INC

"an affiliate society of the Philippine Medical Association" (PMA)
"an affiliate society of the Philippine College of Physicians" (PCP)
"a member of the International Diabetes Federation" (IDF)

Messages

ON BEHALF of the PDA board, we would like to extend our invitation to this year's annual convention with the theme, "Emerging Concepts in Diabetes Management".

In the midst of the current world political and economics crisis, the search for a cure for diabetes continues in research centers around the world. The vision of the society, a diabetes free Philippines, although seems unattainable at this point in time, may someday become a reality. Through annual meetings, new knowledge regarding this devastating disease becomes available to both physicians and patients. This years, both international and local experts will again present the current and future approaches in the management of diabetes. Concurrent workshops will feature updates on foot care and the use and relevance of the Internet in medical practice. Through interactive sessions, more practical issues often encountered in clinical management will be discussed.

It is this with great pleasure that we invite everyone to another fruitful exchange of ideas in this convention.

RUBY T. GO, MD
President, PDA

WARM greetings to everyone.

Growing in epidemic proportion, diabetes mellitus is now a worldwide public health concern. Nonetheless, mankind works together in search for its cure. In the past several years, new medical knowledge has been discovered, modern technologies have been developed and information have been learned. Indeed, medical professionals and specialists constantly uncover new ways to fight the growing concern of diabetes.

This year, the scientific committee of the Philippine Diabetes Association annual convention focuses on the Emerging Concepts in Diabetes Management. Experts in the field, both local and foreign will bring us the latest clinical and practical therapeutic approaches to the management of the disease; carefully looking into the individual needs of every diabetic patients at the different stages of life. Each year, the association works harder to achieve our vision of a diabetes-free Philippines through education and prevention.

On behalf of the organizing committee of this year's annual convention, it is with great pleasure that I extend this innovation to join us in this 2-day scientific activities.

ROSA ALLYN G. SY, MD, FPCP, FPSEM
Chair, Scientific Committee

WITH sincerest felicitations, and on behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we greet the officers and members of the Philippine Diabetes Association, Inc., on the occasion of its Annual Convention.

We commend particularly the men and women at the helm of the PDA for adopting the theme, "Emerging Concepts in Diabetes Management", as it is expressive of its aim in addressing the silent but sinister disease with all available knowledge in new therapeutics and technologies. It is also worthwhile to note the unrelenting efforts of the PDA in the production of first rate workshops on detection strategies, primary prevention, and in allaying diabetes complications. The PMA joins the PDA in looking forward to a most productive and meaningful Annual Convention.

For keeping in step with the PMA aim of bringing doctors to the vanguards of health threats, and for giving reality to our theme, "Doctors at the Forefront – A Challenge for Change", thank you PDA.

Congratulations, and mabuhay to Philippinr Diabetes Association, Inc.

GIL C. FERNANDEZ, M.D.
President
Philippine Medical Association

IT IS an honor to welcome the delegates to the 2001 Annual Convention of the Philippine Diabetes Association. This year's theme "Emerging Concepts in Diabetes Management" is appropriate since diabetes is now in the top ten leading causes of mortality in the Philippines.

The outstanding faculty, local and foreign, chosen to discuss the different issues clearly manifests your bold commitment in retooling the entire PDA with the necessary preventive and effective management wisdom in handling this illness.

There is plenty of work to be done in Diabetes and this needs the collective efforts of the Physician, the patient and the caregivers.

Congratulations to another successful endeavor of the PDA.

ANTONIO H. VILLALON, M.D., FPCP
President
Philippine College of Physicians

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Philippine Diabetes Association, Inc.

A seminar for people with diabetes and those interested in diabetes

December 8, 2001
Century Park Hotel, Manila
Theme: *"Achieving Balance in a World of Complexities – Battle against Diabetes Continues..."*

AM Session

8:15 – 8:30	Start it with a Kick! Exercise Physiologist
8:30 – 9:15	It's just a matter of balancing (Food Pyramid Contest) Celeste Tanchoco, RND
9:15 – 10	Type 2 Diabetes in the Young Does It Exist? Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD
10:30 – 11:15	To see is to Believe: More revealing ways to prevent eye problems Speaker: Dr. Juan Antonio J. Javellana
11:15 – 12	Who Will Develop Kidney Problems

PM Session

1:30 – 2	Sugar Dance (Shake your body and bring that sugar down!) Exercise Physiologist
2 – 3	It's game time "The Missing Link" High Glucose After Meals... Is It Serious Joey Miranda, MD
3:15 – 4	Sex Life after Diabetes
4 – 4:15	Announcements of Winners/Special Prizes

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PROGRAMME
PHILIPPINE DIABETES ASSOCIATION, INC. ANNUAL CONVENTION
DECEMBER 5-6, 2001 (Century Park Hotel, Manila)
"EMERGING CONCEPTS IN DIABETES MANAGEMENT"

DAY 1: DECEMBER 5, 2001

8:30 – 9:15 – **Plenary 1: Leptin Resistance and Diabetes Mellitus: Augusto D. Litonjua, MD**
Symposium A1: General Issues in DM
10:15 – 10:35 1.Hyperinsulinemia vs Hypoinsulinemia: Pitfalls in insulin therapy in Type 2 DM
Speaker: Christoph Rosak, MD
10:35 – 10:55 2.How can we reach 6-7% HbA1c for Type 2 DM?
Speaker: Ruby T. Go, MD
10:55 – 11:15 3.Hyperactive Platelets in Type 2 DM
Speaker: Tommy S. Ty Willing, MD
10:15 – 10:35 1.Reproductive Health Issues in Diabetic Adolescent Women.
Symposium A2: Special Population with Diabetes
Speaker: Ma. Ditas Decena, MD
10:35 – 10:55 2.Diabetes in the Elderly: Should they be managed differently?
Speaker: Shelley dela Vega, MD
10:55 – 11:15 3. Immunization in Type 2 DM: When, What, Why?
Speaker: Cecilia S.Montalban,MD
11:15 – 11:30 – Open Forum
1:30 – 2:15 – **Plenary 2: Diabetes and Pregnancy: What's New For the Mother and Fetus?**
Speaker: Lina Lantion-Ang, MD
Symposium B
Special Reports
2:15 – 2:35 1.Status Report of Expert Committee on Diagnosis and Classification of Diabetes Mellitus.
Speaker: Editha Arceo-Dalisay, MD
2:35 – 2:55 2. Diabetes Prevention Program: Type 2 DM
Speaker: Cynthia Halili-Manabat, MD
2:55 – 3:15 3. New 2001 Lipid Practice Recommendation: Closing the Treatment Gap of Patients with Type 2 DM
Speaker: Cynthia Chua-Ho, MD
3:15 – 3:30 - Open Forum
3:30 – 5:00 – Workshops (Concurrent)
1. Using the Net to Improve Diabetes Care
Speaker: Felix Punzalan, MD (Council on Foot)
[illegible] nd Orth [illegible] in the Neuropathic Foot
onstancion dela Cruz, MD

DAY 2: DECEMBER 6, 2001

9:00 – 9:45 **Plenary 3: PPARs and Insulin Resistance: Ricardo E. Fernando, MD**
9:45 – 10:15 Coffee Break
Symposium C1: Council on Childhood DM
10:15 – 10:35 1. Gene Therapy: Application for the Prevention and Reversal of Type 1 DM **Speaker: Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD**
10:35 – 10:55 2.Hyperinsulinemia, Obesity, Type 2 DM in Filipino children
Speaker: Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD
10:55 – 11:15 3. Therapeutic Approaches of Childhood diabetes
Speaker: Carmelita F. Domingo, MD
Symposium C2: Council on Nutrition
10:15 – 10:35 1.Anti-Oxidants and their Influence in Diabetes
Speaker: Araceli Panelo, MD
10:35 – 10:55 2.High Carbohydrate Diet: An attribute to high Triglyceride in Type 2 DM?
Speaker: Leorino M. Sobrepena, MD
10:55 – 11:15 3.Total Fat: Does it matter for Metabolic control?
Speaker: Ehud Ur, MD
11:15 – 11:30 Open Forum
11:30 – 1:30 Luncheon Symposium
Symposium D1: Council on Complication
1:30 – 1:50 1.Diabetic Retinopathy: New Treatment Options
Speaker: Marie dela Paz, MD
1:50 – 2:10 2. Diabetic Nephropathy, we can delay its Progression, can we promote its Regression? **Speaker: Lyn C. Almazan-Gomez, MD**
2:10 – 2:30 3. Vascular Remodeling in Diabetes Complications: New Treatments
Speaker: Fatima Ramos-Collado, MD
Symposium D2: Council on Education
1:30 – 1:50 1.Diabetes Education for Special Population: Is it the same for all?
Speaker: Susan Trinidad, RN
1:50 – 2:10 2. Delivering behavioral interaction: How should we do it?
Speaker: Ms. Ma. Teresa Teodoro- Beltran
2:10 – 2:30 3. Improving compliance and adherence to Diabetes care: Intervening with Families In Type 2 DM **Speaker: Susan Yu-Gan, MD**
3:00 – 4:00 Meet the Professor Sessions:
1.Current Strategies for Insulin Use
Speaker: Josephine Carlos-Roboca, MD
2. Algorithm for Pharmaceutical in Type 2 DM
Speaker: Laura Trajano-Acampado, MD
3. Should the Risk of Cognitive Dysfunction Modify Glucose Goals?
Speaker: Roberto C. Mirasol, MD

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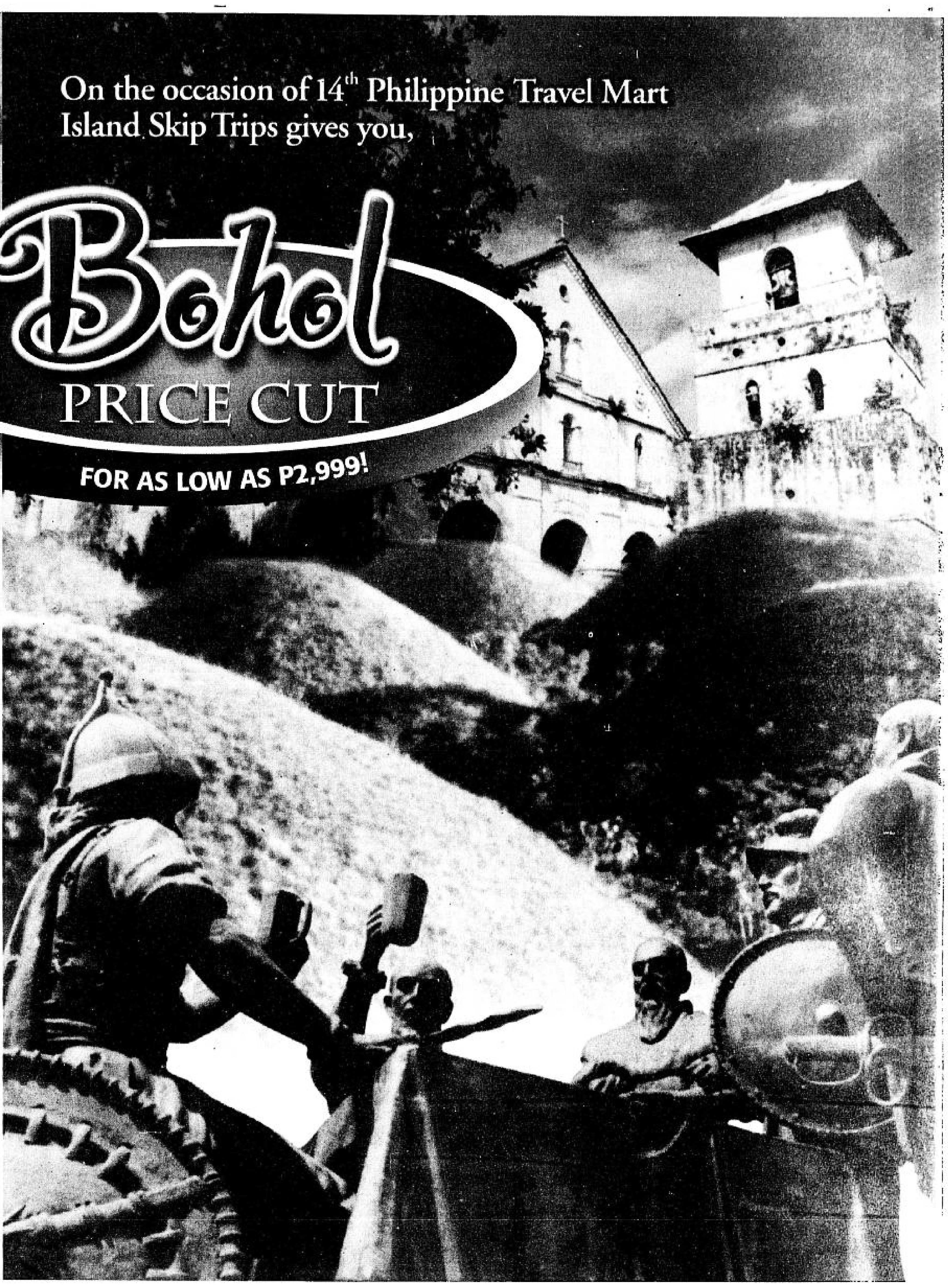

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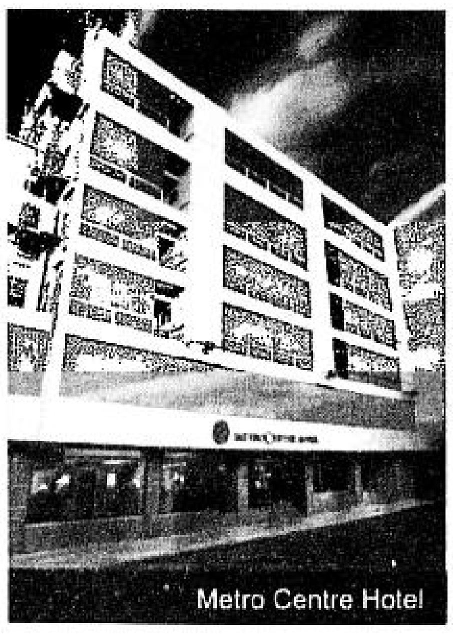
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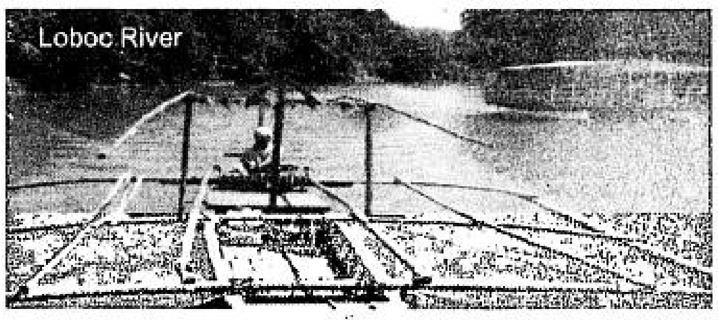
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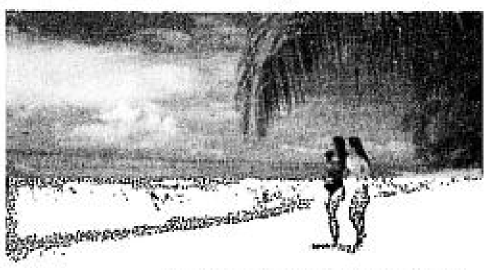
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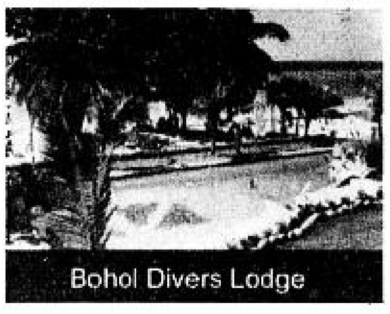
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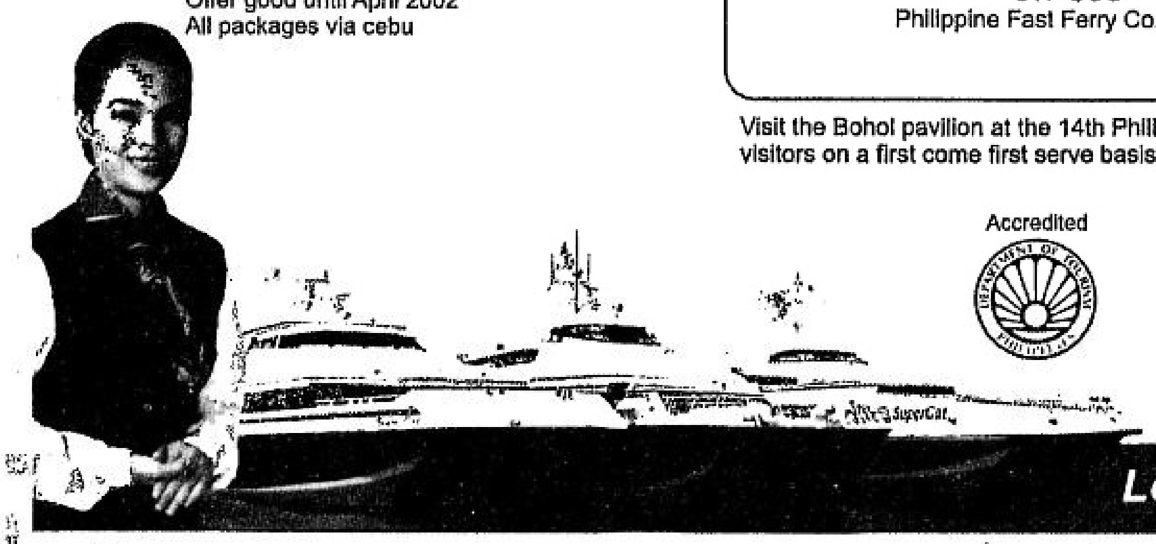

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Bonus and 13th month pay

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THERE has been a lot of confusion generated lately by some irresponsible announcements that more than 2,000 companies allegedly won't pay 13th month pay to their workers this coming Christmas season. Some misguided employers have peddled the distorted view that 13th month pay is a gift arising from the liberality of management. The premise of this misguided notion is that this is a matter of discretion. With all due respect, we bluntly say that such a line of thinking is downright wrong.

It is most likely that the source of such a distorted view was the belief that what is to be paid is a bonus, not a 13th month pay. For indeed, a bonus is a gift and the employees can not compel the employer to give them gifts. The Supreme Court held so in Producers Bank vs. NLRC (GR 100701) as recently as March 28, 2001. But the 13th month pay is not a gift. It is a legal obligation. Refusal to pay it gives the employees the right to sue the employer.

Applicable laws

As early as Dec. 16, 1975, PD 851, issued by President Marcos, already made it mandatory on all employers to pay their employees a 14th month pay. In that decree, the employers were prohibited from reducing whatever benefits the workers have been enjoying prior to PD 851. But those already giving such a pay or its equivalent, including Christmas bonus, were exempted.

On 13 August 1986, President Aquino issued Memo 28 revising the guidelines on the implementation of the 13th month pay law. The salary ceiling of P1,000 was removed and thus, all rank-and-file workers, regardless of status, designation and manner of wage payments, are entitled to it. Even casuals, contractual, project and probationary workers are entitled to get it as long as they have rendered at least one month of service. This is the rule today.

Exempted employers

The law abhors double obligations. Jurisprudence confirmed that principle many times over. The law exempts employers already paying Christmas bonus by company practice or voluntary grant. Not entitled to this benefit are household helps, drivers, gardeners and other domestics, as well as those paid purely on commission and boundary or task basis.

If there is a collective bargaining agreement paying Christmas bonus on top of the 13th month pay, the workers are entitled to both. For the CBA, 13th month pay is a legal obligation. Christmas bonus is a contractual one. But if the CBA so stipulates that payment of one is compliance with the other, public policy does not prohibit creditability.

How much and when

The least a worker can get as 13th month pay is one-twelfth of the total basic salary earned by an employee in the calendar year concerned. Basic pay here includes all earnings paid by one employer for services rendered but excludes allowances and commuted vacation and sick leave credits, overtime, holiday pay and COLA (cost of living allowance).

This benefit shall be paid not later than Dec. 24 each year. The employer has the option to give one-half of the 13th month pay before the opening of the regular school year and the rest on or before Dec. 24. The frequency may be subject to CBA negotiations between the union and management.

Special cases

Workers who are paid fixed or guaranteed wages plus commission are also entitled to a 13th month pay computed based on total earnings during the calendar year. Those with multiple employers, e.g., those working in offices by day and teaching part-time in colleges at nights, are also entitled to 13th month pay from both employers, regardless of total earnings.

Faculty members of colleges and universities are entitled to these benefits regardless of the number of months they teach if they rendered service for at least one month within a year. Resigned, separated or retired employees are entitled to a 13th month pay in the amount proportionate to the number of months in service from January to the date of severance of employment. Payment to them should be given upon separation.

Teacher's overload

If a faculty member is made to work beyond eight hours a day, the overload compensation shall be deemed part of his basic pay for purposes of computing the 13th month pay. Overload is not to be considered overtime. It is the number of units in excess of the normal load of private schoolteachers as prescribed by the DECS (Department of Education, Culture and Sports) and CHEd (Commission for Higher Education).

To consider overload as overtime will benefit the teacher only insofar as the basic pay is concerned since it will earn premium but it will prejudice the faculty members as to the 13th month pay, for the law excludes overtime from computation.

Tax implications

RA 7833, approved on Dec. 8, 1994, exempts the 13th month pay and other related benefits (PD 851), and the bonus for government personnel (RA 6686) from income tax, provided that the aggregate amount does not exceed P30,000.00. The "other benefits" include productivity incentives and Christmas bonus.

In the case of Producers Bank, cited above, the Supreme Court allowed the crediting of the mid-year bonus and Christmas bonus as compliance with the law on 13th month pay. The Court said they were considered "equivalent."

The rule on bonus

It should be stressed that the grant of bonus is deemed an act of enlightened generosity rather than a "demandable" obligation. It is usually a reward for loyalty or industry. In some cases, however, the Supreme Court has recognized the enforceability of bonus notwithstanding the fact that it does not form part of the wage of the employees. The Court's basis in such a grant includes equitable considerations such as long practice and other peculiar factors.

It must be clear that the bonus is usually a gift. The 13th month pay is always a legal right. The DOLE should issue a clarificatory memo for the guidance of all concerned. This is to avoid a repetition of another confusion on a very simple matter like this. *(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph.)*

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Reports of deceptive activities of certain group/s have reached our knowledge. Apparently, these people are only riding onto the popularity of our company, which they claim they are part of, and of the Systems we introduced.

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It is imperative, therefore, that all necessary transactions and business agreements be done through our accredited Business Center Operations and Sub-Center Operations located in strategic areas nationwide or through our corporate headquarters located at Suites 1603 and 1906 Robinson's Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA corner Ortigas Complex, Quezon City.

We enjoin the public to verify with us first before entering into any financial transaction and/or notify us of any knowledge about these unscrupulous/doubtful activities.

Warning is hereby given to those involved in this illegal act as they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

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were reported lost on November 15, 2001:

Traditional Policy Application Form Nos.:

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Any transaction entered with the Company using the above application forms will not be honored.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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Application Forms for Life Insurance of MetLife Philippines, Inc.
(MetLife Philippines) were reported lost on November 15, 2001:

Universal Life Policy Application Form Nos.:

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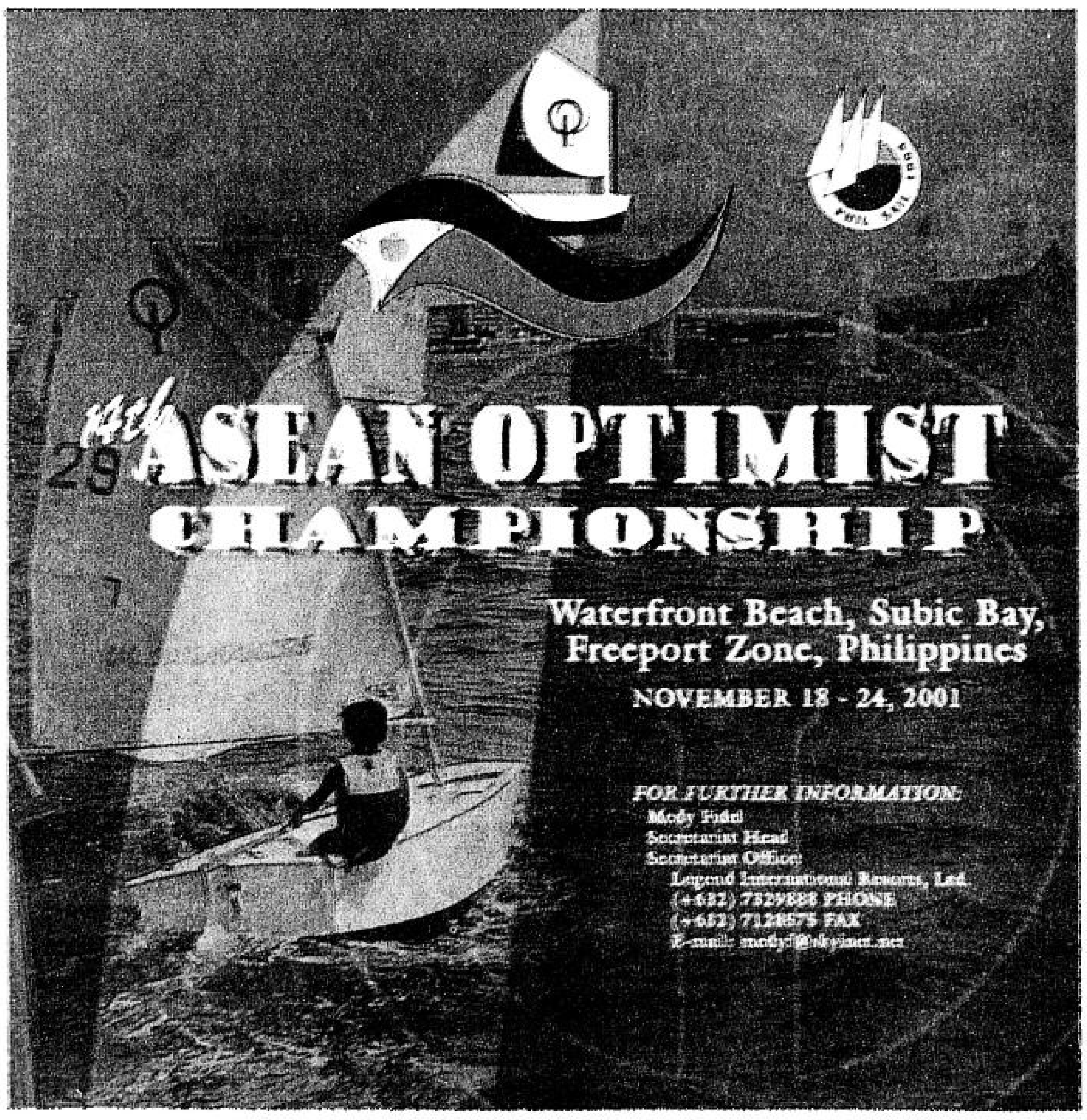

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BOP deficit swells to $1.133B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES' balance of payments deficit swelled to $1.133 billion in the first eight months of the year compared with a surplus of $65 million in the same period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

This latest figure is just $167 million short of the government's original target of ending the year with a deficit of around $1.3 billion.

The country recorded a BOP deficit of $917 million in the first seven months of 2001 due to higher investment outflows and declining exports. In August alone, the deficit widened by 23.55 percent, or by $216 million.

In its worst-case scenario, which assumes a 15-percent contraction in export receipts, the BSP has predicted a BOP deficit of $2.4 billion by year's end.

Investors use the BOP, together with other external account indicators like dollar reserves and current account, as indicators of the country's ability to settle its obligations and whether it can maintain healthy trade relations with other countries.

A BOP deficit means more funds are leaving the country's shores than those coming in as a result of its trade and debt transactions with other countries.

The external payments position depends on the country's current account, which measures exports and imports, and capital and financial accounts, which represent the performance of foreign direct and portfolio investments as well as debts.

The central bank said in a statement that the country's current account in the first eight months of the year yielded a surplus of $1.54 billion, lower by 72.4 percent compared to the surplus level recorded in the same period last year. This figure reflected a drop in exports so far this year.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes disclosed that shipment of electronics, which accounted for more than half of the country's exports, fell 22 percent while exports of garments dipped 21 percent.

As of August, export receipts have contracted by 13.9 percent to $22.911 billion.

The central bank said what preserved the current account surplus this year was a corresponding drop in imports. In the first eight months, imports weakened by close to 2 percent to $23.426 billion.

A deficit in the country's financial accounts accounted for the bulk of the BOP's negative position. As of August, the deficit in capital and financial accounts reached $3.773 billion, up 27.4 percent year-on-year.

Napocor sale on track–DOE

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said early this week that the government was sticking to its schedule of privatizing National Power Corp. early next year despite reports of "possible delays."

"There are reports of possible delays from one or a few of our colleagues (who are involved in the process), but we will keep our schedule," Perez told reporters.

Earlier reports quoted Edgardo del Fonso, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., as saying the roadshow for Napocor's privatization might be postponed to next year from next month.

Psalm, which was created under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, will assume all of Napocor's financial obligations as of end-2000 and would take over its assets.

"We are still sticking to our second-quarter schedule of privatization for the National Transmission Corp.," Perez said.

Napocor's transmission unit will be the first on the auction block, after which the power plants will go.

Perez added that the government was set to kick off a formal roadshow for Napocor next month. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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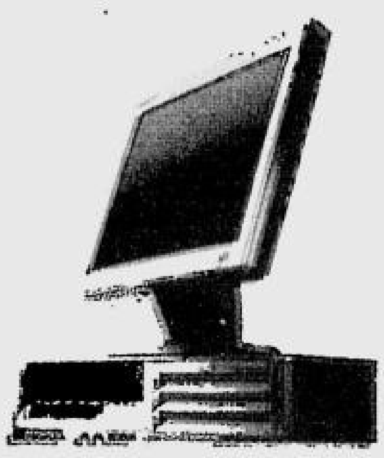

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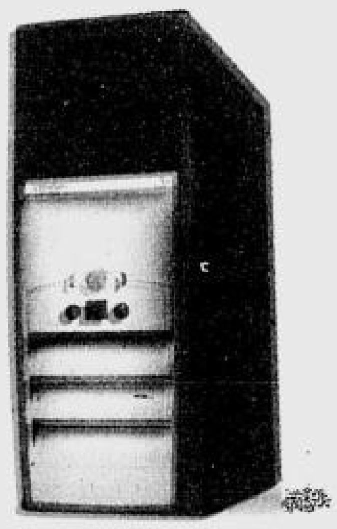

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

•AUCTION SALE•
JE CARO PAWNSHOP
Bon. St. Sta. Cruz Lag. will sell all expired pledges on Nov. 24,2001 4:00PM
V. Zamora Jr. Auctioneer

AUCTION SALE

Cordero Pawnshop New Farmers Plaza QC 137 C.Palanca Quiapo Cordero-Santos Pawnshop 2494 Taft Ave Pasay Cordero South Pawnshop 2673 South Ave Mkt Cordero SC Pawnshop 17A Zamora St SFDMQC Emcco Bldg. MEYC Bul Auctions Sale on all expired loan from April 4 to May 31, 2001 on Dec. 1, 2001 at Respective locations

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V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

N.Cruz Pawnshop and Jewerly Store at 47 A.V. Pozon St., Bambang Pasig December 3, 2001 9AM Tel 641-2918 all unredeemed pledgee of Jan-Oct 2001 will be auctioned-Norma M. Cruz Auctioner

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LEGAL NOTICE

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE RIZALINA T. CRUZ PER DOC. NO. 343; PAGE NO. 70; BK. NO. XLV; SERIES OF 2001 NOTARIZED BY WILFREDO B. AMISCARAY PDI-Nov. 16, 23 & 30, 2001

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **RODOLFO B. ESTOLANO** has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc 653 Page 131 Book I Series 2001 of Notary Public Nicomedes R. Martelino Jr of San Juan Metro Manila (PDI-Nov. 9, 16 & 23,2001)

Notice is given that the estate of the late **JESUS E. MACARAEG** has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc.No.156 Page 32 Book No. XVII Series 2001 of Notary Public Edwin O. Mergas of Tarlac City(PDI-Nov.23,30 & Dec.7,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **JOSEFINA Z. SANTOS** has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs on Aug. 17, 2001 under Doc# 156, Page# 33, Book# 1, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Andres C. Ocampo of Makati City.(PDI-11/23, 30 & 12/7, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NARCISO C. VALLE** was extrajudicially settled among His heirs per Doc.#795, Page #159, Book #XIV Series of 2001 of notary public Atty. Amado E. Villafuerte of Quezon City (PDI-Nov.23, 30 & Dec.7,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Certificates of Stock Nos. 21 and 47 issued by Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. in the name of **LINO ED LIM** representing a total of 312 shares have been lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 16, 23 & 30, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. Thank you also St. Jude for granting my petition-OFELIA & PEEBEE

GREGORIO D. GABORNE

Retired District Supervisor, Province of Iloilo
Department of Education, Culture and Sports

March 12, 1909 - November 21, 2001

His bereaved wife **Maria Belmonte Gaborne**; children **Mehelinda, Belen, Emilie** and **Nestor**; sons-in-law **Cornelio, Stuart** (†); daughter-in-law **Rebecca**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request all pious readers to kindly pray for his eternal rest in heaven.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 28, 2001 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Barotac Nuevo Iloilo Catholic Church.

JULIANA "ANTUNING" GAWARAN CALVELO

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 19, 2001 at the age of 87.

Her children **Alfred (Boy), Dr. Manny** and **Pat, Felix** and **Belen, Dr. Alex** and **Dr. Fe Aplasca, Ed** and **Elisa Pamintuan, Joey** and **Malyn**; grandchildren **Betsy, Kate, Dr. Albert, Dr. Annie, Ali, Alexis, Andrea, Nini, John, Mark, Joyce, Chris, Nicole** and **Ester** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her body lies in state at her residence, 2091 G.G. Cruz Street, Baclaran.

Interment will be on November 25, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at Sta. Rita Church, Baclaran.

Our Beloved Member of the Board of Directors
of the **Iloilo Doctors' Hospital, Inc.** and the
Iloilo Doctors' College, Inc. (IIECI)

CORONACION ("Neneng") PALMARES MUYCO

Has peacefully joined her Creator
on November 16, 2001 at the age of 74.

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Iloilo Doctors' Hospital, Inc. and the Iloilo Doctors' College, Inc. (IIECI) request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence, Iloilo Medical Center, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City and will be transferred to the Passi Parish Church Mortuary, Passi City, Iloilo this Saturday morning, November 24.

Interment will be on November 25, 2001 after the 1:00 PM Necrological Services.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,
neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

NENITA CABALLERO BOCOBO

October 3, 1924 - November 21, 2001

She is survived by her husband **Ariel Bocobo**; children **Norman** and **Vangie, Jorge III** and **Leida** and **Leslie Paul**. Her grandchildren **Michi, Tanya** and **Jade**. Her great grandchild **Branden Ariel** and brother **Lou Caballero, Sr.** request readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels at Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 25, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, 12:00 noon.

DR. ESPERANZA "PANCHING" MANALO SALINDA

U.P. Medicine, Class '42

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 22, 2001 at the age of 81.

Her late husband **Luis** (†); loving children and in-laws **Frankee** and **Lulu, Menchie** and **Joey Reyes, Chit** and **Jerry Jover, Tessie** and **Jerry Orlina, Freddie** and **Marcelle, Maricris** and **Jim McArdle**; brothers, sisters and in-laws **Fernando** (†) and **Solita** (†), **Maria** (†) and **Timoteo** (†), **Gloria, Augusto** and **Dolores, Agripino** and **Cecilia** (†), **Ponciano** and **Milagros, Josefina** and **Luis** (†); grandchildren **Bessie** and **Ricky, Luigi, Michiko, Marvic, Melissa, Carlo, Jay** and **Kristine, Joel, Jeraldine, Kitt, Sarah, Sandy, Samboy** and **Sabrina**; great grandchildren **Angelo, Patrick** and **Joshua**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1, St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City and will be transferred on Saturday morning, November 24 to Garden of Memories Memorial Chapels in Pateros.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 25, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

✝ ANNOUNCEMENT

The remains of

MRS. REBECCA ANDAYA FLORENDO

will be transferred to **St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo,** Quezon City at 5:00 PM on Friday, November 23, 2001. The schedule of activities will be as follows:

Mass and Necrological Services .... 8:00 PM, November 23
St. Ignatius Cathedral
Funeral Mass .... 8:00 AM, November 24
St. Ignatius Cathedral
Interment .... 12:00 Noon, November 24
Libingan ng mga Bayani

"My soul finds rest in God alone
From Him comes my salvation..." Psalm 62:2

Our Dearly Beloved Only Daughter

KATHRYN CECILIA CARVAJAL GAVINO

Now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on November 21, 2001 at the age of 17.

Her loving parents **Bolly** and **Lani**; brother **Kenneth**; grandparents **Dodi** and **Ceny**; Titas: **Malou, Poppo Adel, Eve, Ditas,** and **Nette**; Titos: **Arthur, Reyo, Bernie** and **Art** request readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 25, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, 10:00 AM.

WELLAMINA KHAN BOSTRE

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 19, 2001 at the age of 69.

Her loving husband **Mike**; children **Ma. Teresa, Ma. Corazon, Ma. Socorro, Ma. Vivian Lynn, Michael** and **Mary Ann**; son-in-laws **Jose, Edgardo, Gov. Jun Perez & Ronald**, daughter-in-law **Melody**; and grandchildren **Vincent Nicolas, Venice Natalia, Jose Martin, Jacqueline Vanessa & John Victor** request the kind readers to please pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 24, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Alphonsus Church.

DR. JOSE CARIGABA NONATO

April 25, 1929 — November 17, 2001

His remains lie in state at 103 London Street, Pasig Green Park Village, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Sunday,
November 25, 2001
at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery.

In loving memory of the
1st Death Anniversary

REFUGIO "PURING" NALDO AQUINO

August 9, 1923 — November 23, 2000

"WE MISS YOU SO MUCH, MOMMY!"

Her children **Rudy, Becky A. Bantug, Rafael Jr.** (†), **Raul, Rosita A. Ramos, Rowena, Renato** (†) and **Rosalinda**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at:

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, *Sydney, Australia*	7:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills*	7:15 a.m.
St. Joseph Chapel, *Mt. Carmel Shrine*	2:30 p.m.
San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, *Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, *Project 8*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, *Sta. Mesa*	6:45 p.m.

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Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!
There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;
All that Thou sendest me, in my mercy given;
Angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

ESTER DELOS REYES VDA. DE AGUILUZ

"Mommy"

Ibajay, Aklan
February 2, 1919 - November 19, 2001

peacefully joined her Creator
and her loving husband AMABLE M. AGUILUZ, Sr.
on November 19, 2001 in Los Angeles, U.S.A. at the age of 82.

Her family requests the pious reader to join us in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her sisters SOLEDAD and SALOME.

Her children SONNY and DOLLY, BOB and CHARING, TETO and EMER, KING and CIELO, TIKOY and MINKY, RICKY and ASTRID, BINGBONG and BETH, MARIAN and TRISTRAM EASTWOOD.

Her grandchildren ESTERLIZA and BOB, JACKIE, ALINA and PENG, PING, ALEX, RENE BOY, MIGUEL and CHRISTINE, JINGGAY, CLARA, ANIMA, LOUIE and JANICE, GERARD, BLOSSOMS, ANGELO, ALFRED, SANDRA, ANDREW, PAU PAW, CAU CAW, MAC MAC, NIKKI, COO-COOK, JOHN, JOSEPH, MARY and STEPHEN, DEBRA, TERESA, CATHERINE, MARCO.

Her great-grandchildren JAZMEEN, CAMY, MARTY, RAMON, SHAEENA, SAMEERA and SAREENA.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A-2, La Funeraria Paz,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Interment will be on Sunday, November 25, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park at Marikina City after the 9 A.M. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

ESTER DELOS REYES VDA. DE AGUILUZ

Former Corporate Auditor, National Electrification Administration

Ibajay, Aklan
February 2, 1919 - November 19, 2001

Beloved Grandmother of our Founder and President
AMABLE C. AGUILUZ IX
and of our Treasurer
CHRISTINE K. AGUILUZ

peacefully joined her Creator
and her loving husband AMABLE M. AGUILUZ, Sr.
on November 19, 2001 in Los Angeles, U.S.A. at the age of 82.

We join her family in their hour of bereavement.

Her sisters SOLEDAD and SALOME.

Her children Dr. AMABLE II and DOLORES, Amb. AMABLE III and ROSARIO,
AMABLE IV and EMERENCIANA, Dr. AMABLE V and CIELO, AMABLE VI and CARMENCITA,
AMABLE VII and ASTRID, AMABLE VIII and ELIZABETH, MARIAN and TRISTRAM EASTWOOD.

Her grandchildren Dr. ESTERLIZA and BOB, Dr. JACKIE, Dr. ALINA and Dr. PENG,
MARIA DOLORES, ALEX, AMABLE XIV, AMABLE IX and CHRISTINE, JINGGAY, CLARA, ANIMA,
AMABLE X and JANICE, GERARD, BLOSSOMS, ANGELO, AMABLE XV, SANDRA,
AMABLE XVIII, AMABLE XI, AMABLE XII, AMABLE XIII, NIKKI, AMABLE XVI,
JOHN, JOSEPH, MARY and STEPHEN, DEBRA, TERESA, CATHERINE, MARCO.

Her great-grandchildren JAZMEEN, CAMY, AMABLE XVII, RAMON,
SHAEENA, SAMEERA and SAREENA.

We request the pious readers to join us in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.
Her remains lie in state at Chapel A-2, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 25, 2001 at the
Loyola Memorial Park at Marikina City after the 9 A.M. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

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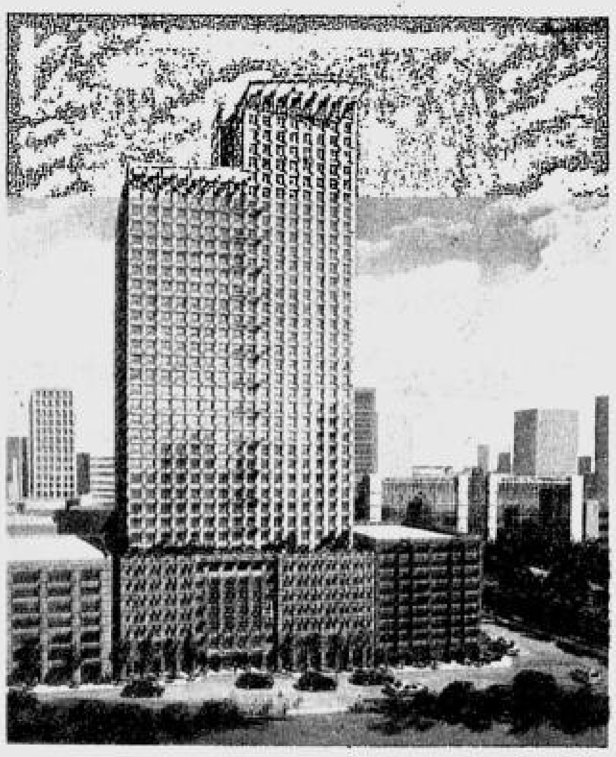

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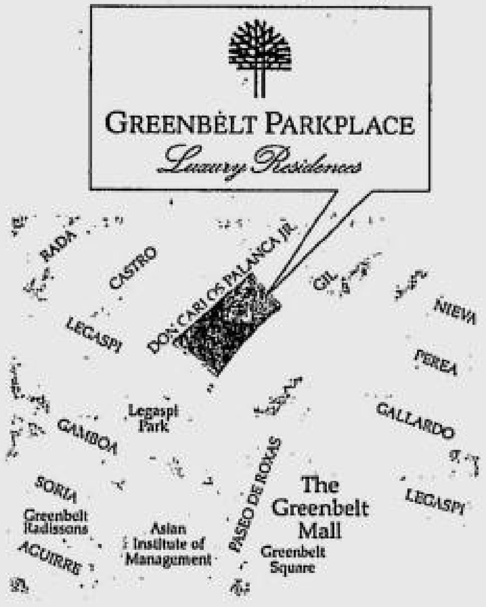
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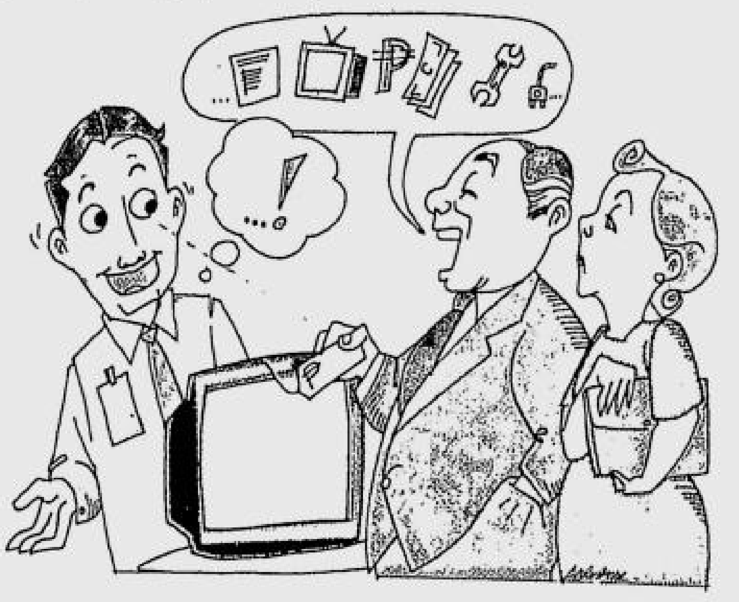
BUSINESS *Friday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

MARKETING GURU SAYS

‘Keep eyes on customers’



By GERTIE AMPIL-TIRONA

TODAY’S marketing professional should be “a man of this century,” according to Asian Institute of Management Professor Tommy B. Lopez Jr., recipient of the 2001 Agora Award for Marketing Education of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA).

Lopez’s so-called 21st century man or woman should possess requisite skills to adapt to the speed and complexity, if not the unpredictability, of the contemporary marketing environment.

To effectively face new challenges, he emphasizes that a marketing practitioner should have a concern for and a keen understanding of the nuances of what he termed as “spoiled brat consumers who want to have everything but pay next to nothing.”

Marketing practitioners should keep a watchful eye on lean, hungry and mean competitors who offer the same product and services, cautions Lopez.

They should also constantly, aggressively and dynamically monitor the ever-changing marketplace in the wake of globalization and the ensuing borderless trading activities.

Cited by the PMA as an exemplary marketing educator, Lopez gamely shares his perspectives on how fellow academics should reinvent themselves and their methodologies.

Paradigm shifts, he says, must also characterize marketing education. The constantly changing global marketplace must be treated as the real classroom so that students can integrate learning and relevance with ease through continuous exposure to the real world.

The Lopez prescription: “Keep your eyes on the customers, your ears attuned to his voice . . . sense the subtleness and changes in him, so you can respond accordingly. Marketing education has to migrate as far as possible from the books.

“The global marketplace is your

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1831, Series of 2001

MARKETING STRATEGY

Payment center taps entrepreneurs to grow

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE of the most annoying errands is paying the monthly bills. Who would not be annoyed when a person has to line up from one place to another just to get the errand over and done with.

The Lopez group then thought that there was a market for an easy payment system that would enable consumers to just go to one convenient place near their home or office to pay most of their bills.

Their answer was the Bayad Center, the payment collection service of CIS, the IT solutions company jointly owned by the Manila Electric Co. and Benpres Holdings Co.

The Bayad Center was put up in 1997 to initially service the collection requirements of the Lopez group such as the Manila Electric Co. and Bayan Telecommunications Inc.

It eventually expanded its services to include Globe Telecom GMCR Inc., Smart Communications Inc., Manila Water, Digital Telecommunications Phils., Nextel, Islacom, Manulife Financial, CAP Pension and CAP Education.

From just two Bayad Centers operated by CIS, the network has grown to over 600 nationwide due to its strategy of tapping entrepreneurs to operate the centers.

CIS taps entrepreneurs with existing businesses, preferably storefront operations with heavy pedestrian traffic such as shopping malls, supermarkets, convenience stores, drugstores and banks.

The requirements to put up a Bayad Center are a good site, a good business track record and a computer. Entrepreneurs would also have to pay a fee to CIS to cover for the system and the software.

Many entrepreneurs have invested in the business, resulting in the doubling of the Bayad Center network from 300 last year to 600 this year.

With this growth, Bayad Center plans to upgrade its systems and network infrastructure to meet an overwhelming rise in transactions from its third-party agents and outlets.

Last year, Bayad Center processed more than a million transactions in one month.

"We try to establish good and effective systems without making it enviably expensive for the business," says Cesar Alcasid, Corporate Information Solutions senior vice president for e-transactions.

BAYAD CENTER

YOUR ONE-STOP PAYMENT SHOP

"We regularly review our current IT infrastructure to determine where we can introduce improvements that will enable us to maintain and improve our service level commitment to our customers," Alcasid adds.

At present, Bayad Center outlets upload collections through dial-up network links using file transfer protocol or e-mail. The outlet staff inputs the collections into the Payment Collection Service application developed by CIS using Oracle development tools. Bayad Center's PCS uses Hewlett Packard K-class servers running HP-UX 10.2.

With the infrastructure in place that ensures good service to the customers and the client corporations, Bayad Center estimates that the system will double again to 1,200 stores by the end of next year.

Majority of these Bayad Centers are located in Luzon with the Visayas and Mindanao areas starting to catch up. These Bayad Centers dedicate one or two PCs for the front-end PCS application, each with a printer.

A telephone and modem were used to connect to the Bayad Center central servers in the CIS Data Center.

"We believe in the mantra 'change the game' and we modified another popular mantra, 'location, location, location' to 'convenience, convenience, convenience.' The name of the game is customer convenience with the security needed in protecting the integrity of our system," Alcasid says.

More Bayad Centers are scheduled to be opened in Metro Manila and more merchants would be added into the system.

More services, such as the electronic PIN or E-PIN, which allows customers to acquire personal identification numbers to access prepaid services such as mobile phone communications and Internet access, would also be introduced soon.

All of these would be possible, he says, with the participation of more entrepreneurs who are looking for more business in these trying times.

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Ad Congress brings holiday spirit to Cebu

BY IRENE R. SINO-CRUZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE 17th Philippine Advertising Congress gives Cebu's tourism business a much needed shot in the arm.

CEBU CITY—Christmas has come early to most Cebuanos with the holding of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress.

With over 2,000 delegates flooding the city of Cebu to attend the important event, many businesses were suddenly brought to life.

This is good news for the Cebu economy that has been plagued by the global economic downtrend and slowdown in travel like many other cities and nations.

As expected, the tourism industry is the primary beneficiary of the biennial event held for the third time here in Cebu City.

"The implication is that we are the convention destination," says Department of Tourism regional director Patria Aurora Roa.

City hotels will be most benefited by the arrival of about 2,000 delegates expected to participate in this year's congress, Roa tells the INQUIRER.

Most hotels and resorts experienced a minimum of 25-percent decline in occupancy rate following the issuance by the Japanese government of a level 2 travel alert against Cebu and most of the Philippines.

For the ad congress this week, at least, business is back up.

While the bulk of delegates will be billeted at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, the venue for the Ad Congress, Roa says others would be staying at other city hotels such as Cebu Plaza Hotel, Montebello Villa Resort and Cebu City Marriott Hotel.

Even the inexpensive pension houses and hotels will benefit from the event since most of the student-delegates would be staying there, she says.

The ad congress, however, would not have much effect on the beach resorts, she says.

Even the tour operators do not expect immediate benefits from the congress.

"We don't think we'll get much. We just hope we can sell some tours since most of the delegates are locals," an industry source says.

The Ad congress will also bring in additional revenues to transport operators and the shopping malls, aside from the hotels.

Meanwhile, the Cebu Association of Tour Operators (Cato) will be manning a tour desk at Waterfront to provide assistance to delegates and family members who may want to take tours.

Cato president Joan Denise Young-Tiu says the tour packages would be expanded to include neighboring islands.

Aside from the island-hopping tours, Tiu said, there will be a trip to the Olango bird sanctuary and seascape tour.

The Ad Congress also brings short-term benefit to the local carriers, says Philippine Airlines assistant vice president for the Visayas Celso Dapo.

"There's a short-term benefit not only for Philippine Airlines but also for other domestic carriers," Dapo says.

Aside from providing relief to the domestic airline industry, he says, the Ad Congress would show to the travelling public that there's no real concern for security in domestic travel.

Despite the economic downturn, the Ad Congress would try to infuse optimism as focus would be on promoting the development of niche markets, says Bong Osorio, spokesperson for the event's organizing committee.

"It's going to be back to basics," Osorio says, adding that companies would have to decide whether to connect through mass media or go one-on-one with consumers.

Survey firm executives and other experts on different niche markets will also provide insights on how to capture each niche.

Some successful companies will also share their experiences in winning the battle for consumers and the latest in marketing trends.

Coops fair set

MUCH of the world has fallen on hard times, and the Philippines is probably looking at one of the most austere Yuletide seasons in the last few decades. And although the country is no stranger to "making do or making without," this especially rough economic patch has bred small-time entrepreneurial ventures that have yielded satisfying returns to those that dared rise to the harsh occasion.

Take the *tiangge*, which until a few years ago had been a Christmas staple where stalls sold everything from homemade peanut butter to pearls at often outrageously low prices, thanks to stiff competition. Today, *tiangge*-type development dominates most malls, and most certainly the *tiangge* has morphed to an everyday mode of commerce as it incorporates an increasing variety of products and services—from clothing embroidered by members of a women's cooperative in Payatas to low- and medium-cost housing in the suburbs of Metro Manila.

It is almost auspicious to end the year with the 1st Cooperatives & SMEs Trade Fair on December 6-9 at Hall 3 of the SM Megatrade Hall in Mandaluyong City. Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotions (BDTP), the Cooperative Development Authority and Gateway East Inc., the fair will bring to the public for the first time a wide assortment of Filipino crafts, goods and services.

One of a kind

Rhodora Leaño, BDTP director, takes pride in this first-of-a-kind trade fair that would promote cooperatives, most trade fairs having showcased small, medium, and large enterprises. "The event (hopes) to gather the best cooperatives in terms of the organization and the products they offer, so we are encouraging all local government units to help in our campaign to choose participants," Leaño says. "With the help of LGUs, the cooperatives trade fair will be well-represented by coops from all over the country."

She adds that by promoting cooperatives' business ventures, the organizers aim to build a consumer base for these cooperatives. "After being oriented and mobilized toward clear-cut business goals and income generation, we hope that these cooperatives can be drawn into the mainstream economy."

The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) currently lists some 50,000 cooperatives widely distributed all over the country. These cooperatives range from simple retailers', farmers' and fishers' co-ops to larger traders' federations. Contrary to popular notions that cooperatives are mere credit and loan ventures, cooperatives specialize in a variety of businesses, among them agricultural, processed foods, arts and crafts, garments, jewelry, electronics, leather goods, furniture and home furnishings.

The four-day bazaar is a special event to highlight the local and international process that hopes to restore cooperatives' pride of place in local economies. Recognizing the role of cooperatives in upgrading the economic and civil sectors while breathing new life into the entrepreneurial spirit, the 89th Session (2001) of the International Labor Conference in Geneva recommended the promotion of cooperatives all over the world.

Showcasing the best

Virginia Teodosio, CDA administrator, challenged CDA regional directors to showcase their area's best, most aggressive and forward-looking cooperatives in the fair. "Promotion of cooperatives can be better achieved through examples that serve to inspire the rest and those who are considering organizational options for economic productivity," said Teodosio.

In a directive to CDA regional directors, Teodosio called for coordination with local government units to ensure the participation of the best cooperatives in their areas be they involved in agriculture, production, marketing, trading.

Their queries were directed to Gateway East, the designated event organizer, at 637-6754, 734-0588 or gateway@i-next.net and to the BDTP at 890-4933 and 890-4877.

Cooperatives are deemed able to take a more active role in the country's economy by networking such as what the fair hopes to facilitate.

Indeed, there is greatness in being small, mobile and compact, the economic grounds being too shifty for lumbering giants to thrive. There is now a greater need to strengthen the ties that bind cooperatives and small-scale enterprises that in the end would benefit the loop of producers, consumers, financing agencies and, ultimately, the economy.

'Keep eyes . . .

(From page C1)

classroom because marketing paradigms shift rapidly. By the time our students get to the field, their world would have changed dramatically!" he says.

Lopez is both faculty and alumnus (with distinction) of the AIM's Master in Management Program. He is popularly referred to as the Institute's Guru of Services Marketing and the emerging field of one-to-one Marketing.

He also teaches courses in development communications, corporate social responsibility, entrepreneurship, strategic management and information technology.

Lopez is one of four AIM marketing professors who have received the Agora Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education" on the basis of student evaluations, consulting and speaking engagements, as well as their professional support and commitment to the goals of the PMA.

The others were Ned Roberto, Joe Faustino and Peter Garrucho.

(The author is with the corporate communications department of the AIM.)

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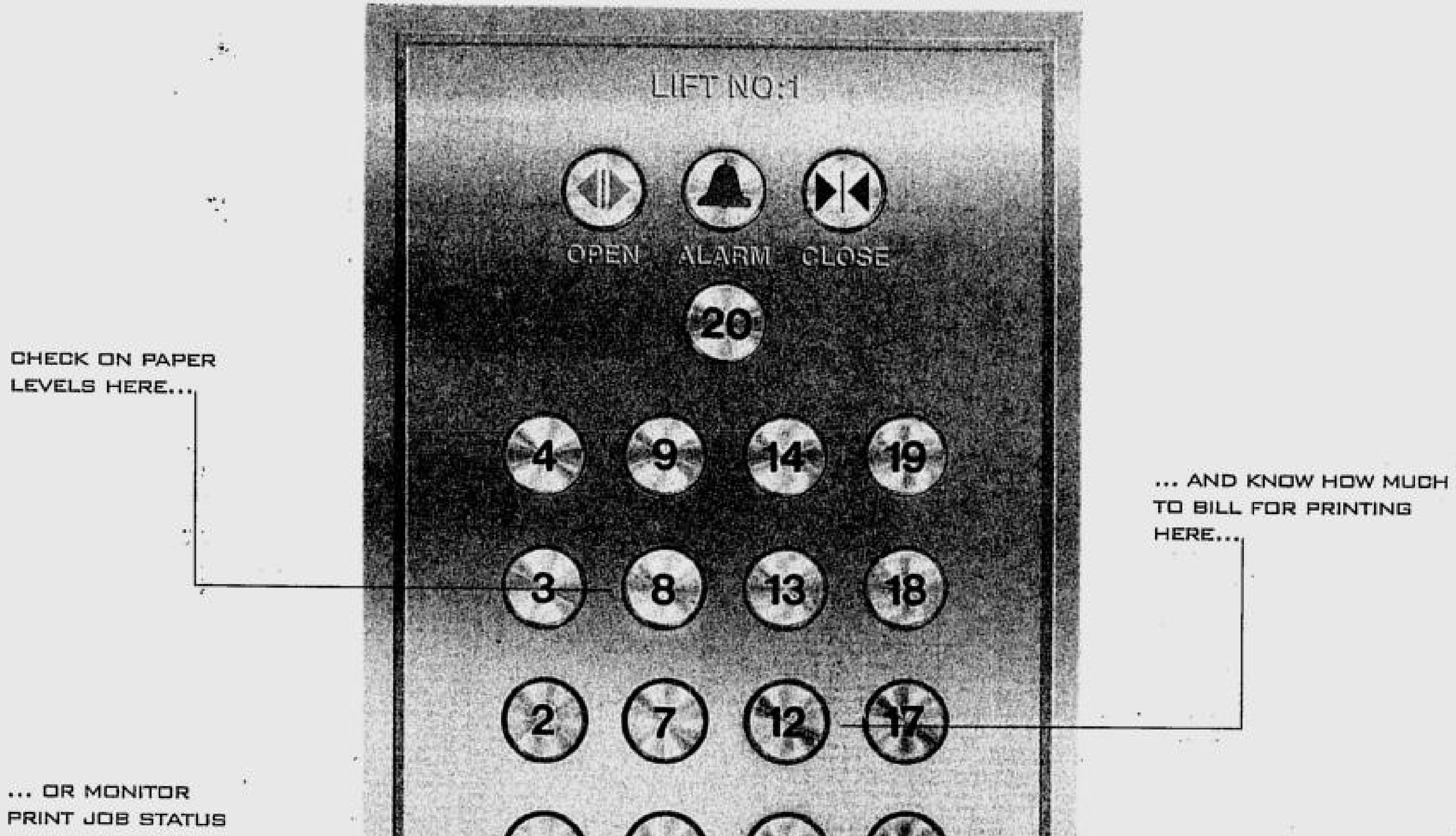
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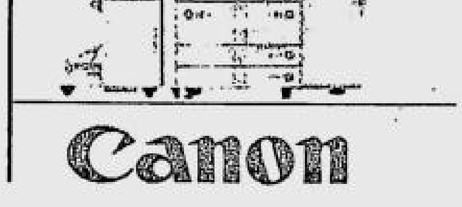

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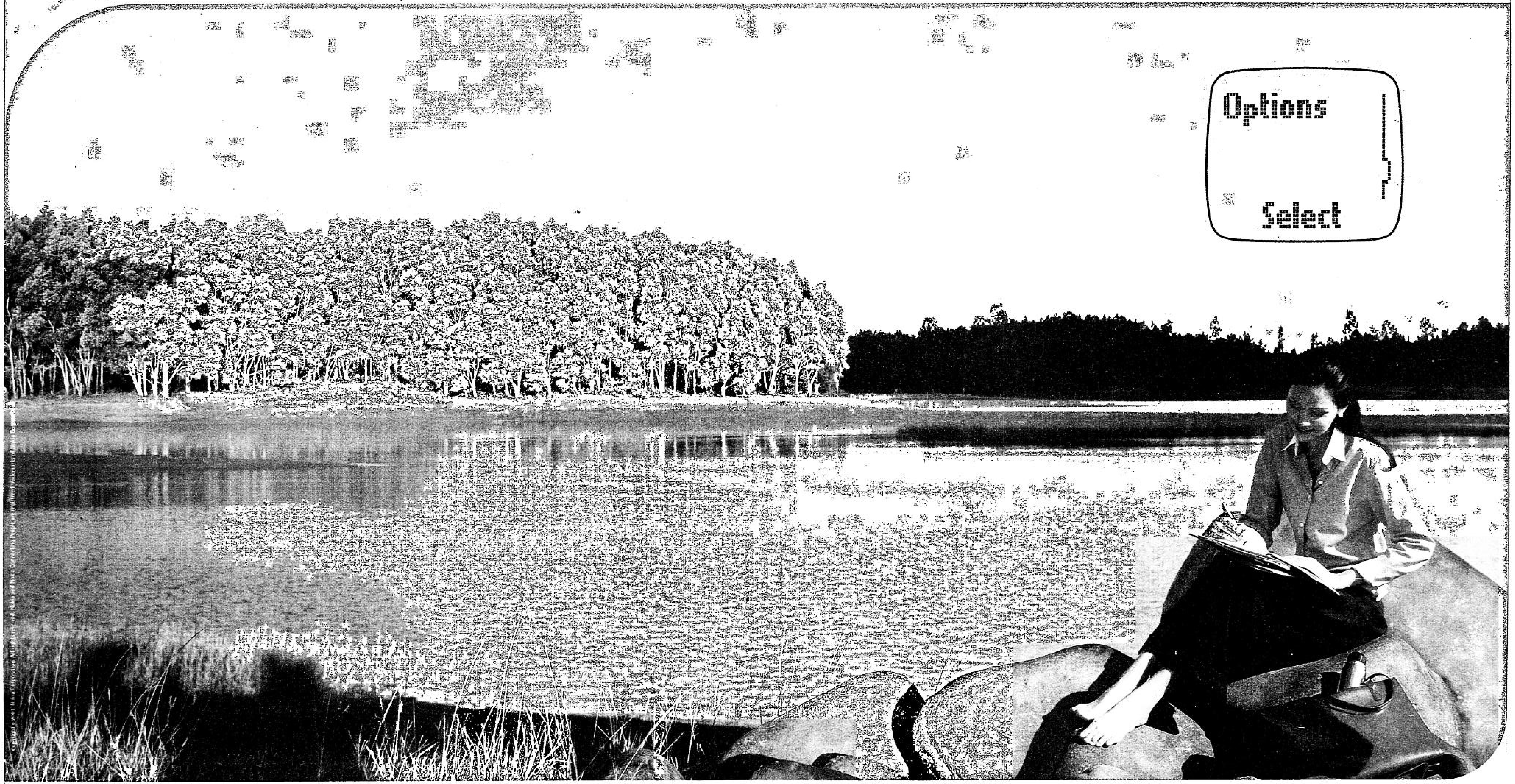

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Trend Spotting LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ▪ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

You in a holiday mode?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

OUR Narrowcast board meeting was distracted by two non-business breaking news: **Nida Blanca**'s (alleged) killer and **Vandolph**'s serious accident. It was **Charo Santos Concio** who broke the news about Vandolph and discussed with the network bosses if he could be flown in an ABS-CBN chopper to Manila, but since it was nightfall by then, that option was no longer feasible. Amid the group's stunned silence, the bosses hurriedly ticked off other transport possibilities.

Rarely do you get two national distractions in one afternoon, but last Monday we did. The sad irony is, the best-loved Nida, who brought laughter and wholesome moments to generations, will now be remembered for tragedy—of the ugliest kind.

So to go back to the question: you in a holiday mode?

"How can we when we're surrounded by death?" said **Carlo**, our cynical magazine editor. "And debt," butted in our art director **Joseph**, who had his credit card in mind.

You feel like instructing everyone to please calendar Christmas, lest we forget it.

The obtuse thing is, the government is priming us for another long holiday this month, and an even longer one at year's end—so the people will have the free days "to spend." But who's biting?

Even the mall sales say the metro populace is not. These days, people are driven to earn, not to spend. They're using all tricks in the book to squeeze every feasible income out of this year, while holding on to their money because of the nagging perception that things are not right. Offices are seeing a selling frenzy of all kinds of merchandise employees hawk to their colleagues. Mostly everyone is into the underground economy. If consumers are trekking to buy, it is to the bazaars and *tiangges*, to both buy and sell. The Heaven Sent bazaar at Forbes the past two weekends saw the long queues of cars, so did the Makati Sports bazaar. Selling creative stuff—from soap to candles and cookies—at bazaars is again the vogue among the chic set.

In this way is the government so out of tune with the times. People want to earn, to make a profit and to be productive, before they holiday on the beach. They want to brace themselves for the rainy day, if it's not yet here.

Business, big and small, has already written off this year, with its missed revenue targets, and is instead directing its efforts to next year—for sheer survival.

2001 came and went like a blur. It's as if you've heard the knock-out bell even before you could get up on your feet to fight the round. We just came from Hong Kong where we met up with former newspaper colleagues based there who just lost their jobs after their newspaper closed down abruptly. Yet instead of retreating to safe corners or hiking to the beach, they're girding themselves for yet another challenge. They're putting up a Pinoy tabloid for the Pinoy market in HK—using their own money.

Here, professionals and entrepreneurs are no less brave. They're working into the night to rake up sales or plant the seeds for next year's harvest. If the government is getting the drift of us professionals, businessmen and entrepreneurs, it should be stimulating productivity, not only spending. Nothing sounds more moronic than the Cabinet member's suggestion to reduce us into a four-day work week, when we haven't even gotten our act together where the nation's work ethic is concerned.

Leadership must be values-setting. And one value we must instill is hard honest work. Money must be hard and honestly earned. And we don't want our children to aspire to be *trapos*, smugglers—or drug dealers, because that's easy big money. It's tough to instill values in our children, as it is, without the country's leaders sending out the wrong signals.

The thirtysomethings or even younger are al-

YOU/ p.D7

People are driven to earn, not to spend, especially now that 2001 seems to have come and gone in a blur

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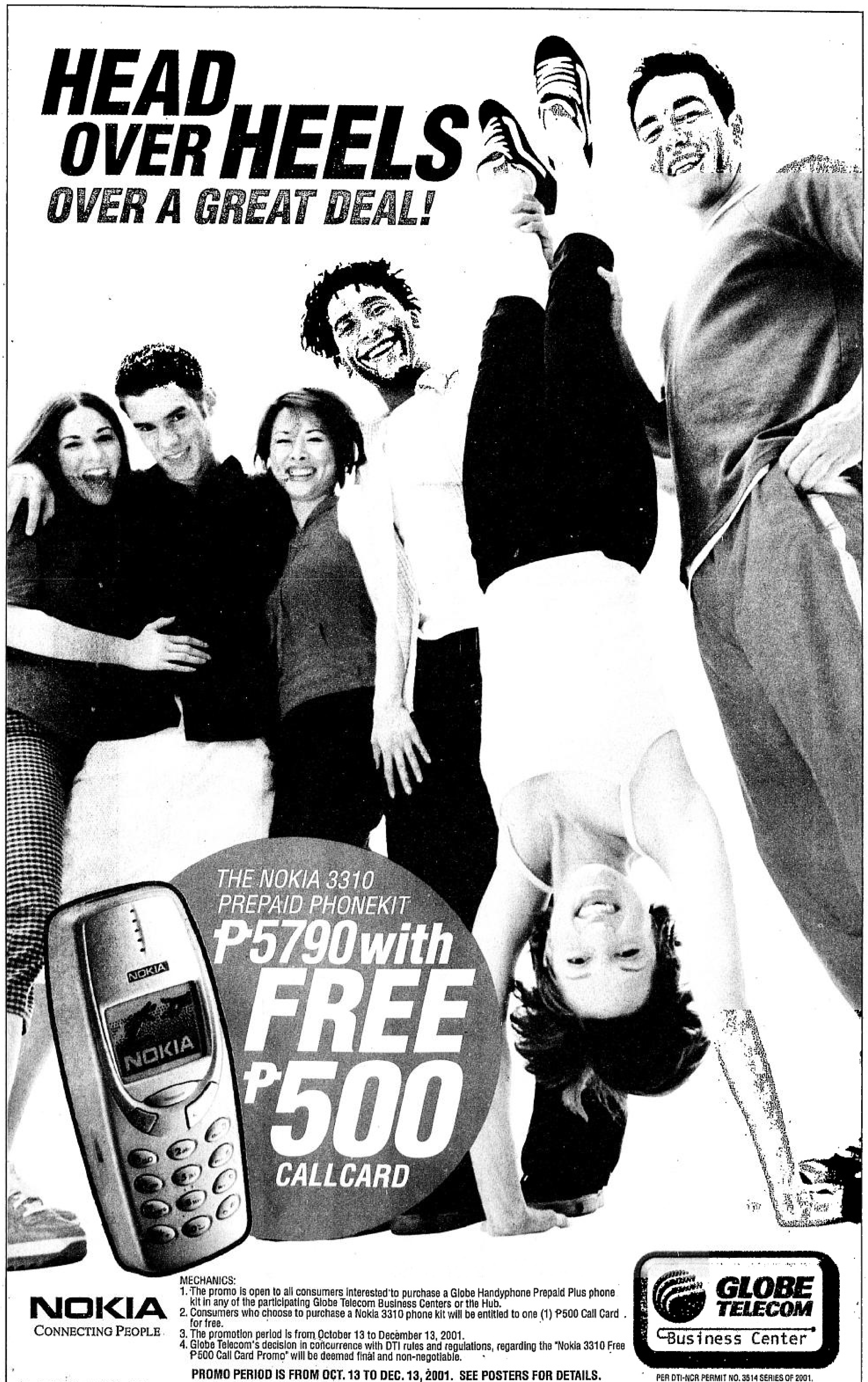

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A day of hustle and bustle with Neal Oshima

By Joan Orendain

NEAL Oshima hates to be eavesdropped on when he's working behind the camera. Not known to be a benign person—artists hardly ever are when they are at work—at least, he has allowed a writer into his studio to observe how he works.

He and Eric Faury, a genius with hair and salon manager at the Franck Provost Salon, are preparing for "Lovelock," an exhibit of Eric's hair creations as artfully photographed by Neal.

To the sounds of a saxophone gone jazz-crazy blaring out of a couple of speakers, Tina Maristela Ocampo—in a black slinky gown, her hair done up in a dozen or so pompoms—is standing in place striking up poses galore, while Neal shoots away.

Now, Tina is in the dressing room being given a different hairstyle by Eric and a change of makeup by Allan Ladao. Loops of flaming red, long, thin strands of hair are uncoiled off a many-pronged stand, gelled, looped over her hair, and fastened with multi-colored clips.

Allan has drawn a blue-black squiggle on Tina's forehead, but Neal's not too happy with "the drawing," because it detracts from the hairstyle and the clips, so off it comes.

"We influence each other," Neal explains during a break. "One difficulty is that Eric's working in the round, and I'm working one-dimension. I've got to get him to give me something two-dimensional so it works.

"I see something, then I need to know how to photograph from the top, side, profile. If he sees what I'm trying to do, then maybe he can enhance it by making it higher, or whatever."

Eric twirls more red strands on his model's cranium, leaves a length hanging down her face to briefly satisfy a nicotine fit out in the hall, and returns to finish the job.

But Neal likes the wanton effect and declares he will shoot some frames with the wayward lock, before Eric pins it down. He also asks Allan to add white eyeliner on her eyelids, and pile on the makeup over the bathing-suit, sun-tan marks on her shoulders.

Neal's assistants, RJ, who's pretty enough to be a model herself, and Rusty, re-arrange the shooting area, mounting a platform over what looks like green plastic San Miguel cases which turn out to be storage bins. He is changing cameras to a 4 x 5, which to the untrained eye, looks like the elongated cameras of bygone days, minus the hood and the popping flash that go with it.

Not sloppy

There are at least 20 cameras lined up on shelves in the closet, and in a nook along a wall, another 20 or so tripods of varying heights. A giant black umbrella against which to bounce the light, and an awning-like contraption (for God knows what effect), and venous booms, dominate the shooting area. BG music has shifted to jazz-flute.

TINA Maristela-Ocampo gets styled with red ringlets and colorful pins

Allan is the only unsloppy makeup artist in one's recollection. Each time he's through with a brush, he dunks it in a glass and wipes it off before shifting to another brush. The strokes he paints are masterful and sure.

While Tina puts on another black gown, Chin-Chin Gutierrez bounces in laden with a stuffed backpack, a finely woven rattan makeup kit, and a huge athletic bag. Off comes the shirt, and a green towel is wrapped around her torso and clipped together. Eric fastens her shoulder-length hair back so Allan can do her makeup.

Tina's having trouble keeping the uncooperative lock straight down the middle of her face, Eric rushes in with more gel. It doesn't work, so Tina finally bites on it. Neal shoots a Polaroid shot to see what adjustments he should make to the lighting, takes a meter reading against Tina's cheek, the assistant sets up for color slides, and the shoot resumes.

Well, not quite—Neal fuzzes around with more contraptions large and small, while Tina catches 10 winks, checks to see if Neal's ready, and has several more intermittent 10-winkers. Clips come off, on, this way, that way, but the long-suffering model is uncomplaining.

"Chin up, chin down," Neal directs. The lock still hangs. What to do? Tina finally twirls it around one eye like a large monocle, rolls her eyeballs, Neal's happy (or at least appears to be—one never knows), resumes shooting, and she's back in form. It's over, the model jumps out of her seat, rushes to the dressing room, but wait! Neal wants her back for a last-minute wrap.

In the dressing room, Eric has attached a long hair switch and antler-like twigs to Chin-Chin's bun, and Allan's deft makeup has produced a gorgeous doe (making us forget completely that only male deer have branched horns). Fine sprays of hair adorn the twigs, and Neal jokes about maybe hanging Christmas balls. Eric then confesses he got the twigs and hair idea from thinking Christmas! Eric has won Beaucoup hair awards in Paris and in London.

No airs

While Chin-Chin's being done up, Neal and Tina compare notes about their children's math subjects, the Kumon system, what works for their kids, what doesn't. Tina owns 40 Anonymous stores, "no fuss, no frills, everything was all white, but now we ve added a bit of gray." She's wearing a saddle-stitched denim shirtwaist and dark tan sling-backs, and is waiting for her driver to pick her up.

When complimented for having no airs, she comments, "It's quite easy. We don't know each other very well, but when there's one goal, the whole thing gels."

Eric is done with the hair. While Allan continues to transform Chin-Chin's face, it's time to concentrate on the live goldfish and the glass globe which will encase the next hairstyle. Eric is walking around staring into a plastic-sacked live goldfish in water. "I wanted the model to bite the fish, but it's still alive, and I don't want to kill it." Neal is thinking out loud—"like an alien who swallows something which worms around his body"—meaning the fish. Eric cringes.

Chin-Chin emerges from the dressing room sideways, so her antlers won't get caught on the door jamb. Eric says, "I wanted her to look like she just came out of the forest." She does.

At the shoot, model-turned-doe twists head this way and that, her toweled torso moving in reverse to create a graceful line (the towel won't show in the photos), and she's done in less than a quarter of an hour.

Off come the antlers and the switch, replaced by coils of hair wrapped around stiff wire. While her makeup is being altered, Chin-Chin asks people in the room if they know of any religious order which accepts spiritual retreats in Baguio. The Pink Sisters don't accept outsiders, but she's looking for an order like theirs. "They're rooted because they plant vegetables, contemplative, they don't talk. Even when they're making jam, they're praying," she says.

Does she meditate, someone asks. Yes, she does. We all need a "connection with the Supreme spirit. The evil's not controlling the body anymore, and it's energy, super-energy. You have to make sure you're connected with what's solid inside."

Connected

Is there any conflict between the search for spirituality and her being an actress and a model? Nope. "It's all connected. Everything's a choice. You go with the flow."

Tina adds, "Sometimes, you have to rest your soul so that you can come back and do something great, like Laurice Guillen and Johnny Delgado."

It's almost unreal, this esoteric conversation in close quarters, a tiny dressing room about the size of two queen beds put together. On a low table, a round chignon hairpiece exactly the size and shape of an uneaten chocolate doughnut beside it, one of two models barely wrapped in a green towel, a black feathered stole hanging from a clothes rack, and Eric, wife Virginie taking photos of the entire proceedings, Neal, RJ and Rusty, Allan and two other observers—all practically sitting on each other's laps amid all Eric's props.

CHIN-CHIN Gutierrez in her exotic look called "The Doe." Hair by Eric Faury, makeup by Allan Ladao.

PHOTOS BY VIRGINIE FAURY

In a shoot for 'Lovelock,' a forthcoming exhibit of Eric Faury's hair creations, the photographer shows his methodical, meticulous ways and his Oriental mask

The fish is still bothering Eric—and the glass globe special—ordered from Quiapo, which Neal predicts may not work. Chin-Chin resolves the problem. She'll wear the globe, and with her coils, she will be an electric bulb. Someone in the room wonders, "How does one Stanislavsky method-act being a light bulb?"

That's what happens. Lights, reflections, mirrors, a fog machine, which balks, then works, then balks again, soft backlighting, Neal shoots. Chin-Chin crosses her eyes, performs being a bulb, and running out of ideas, puckers her lips in lieu of the absentee goldfish, and Neal calls it a wrap after 20 minutes. The goldfish lives, and Neal passes cans of beer around the studio. Eric and Virginie Faury exit to enjoy a cigarette. It's been a good day.

FAURY and Neal Oshima

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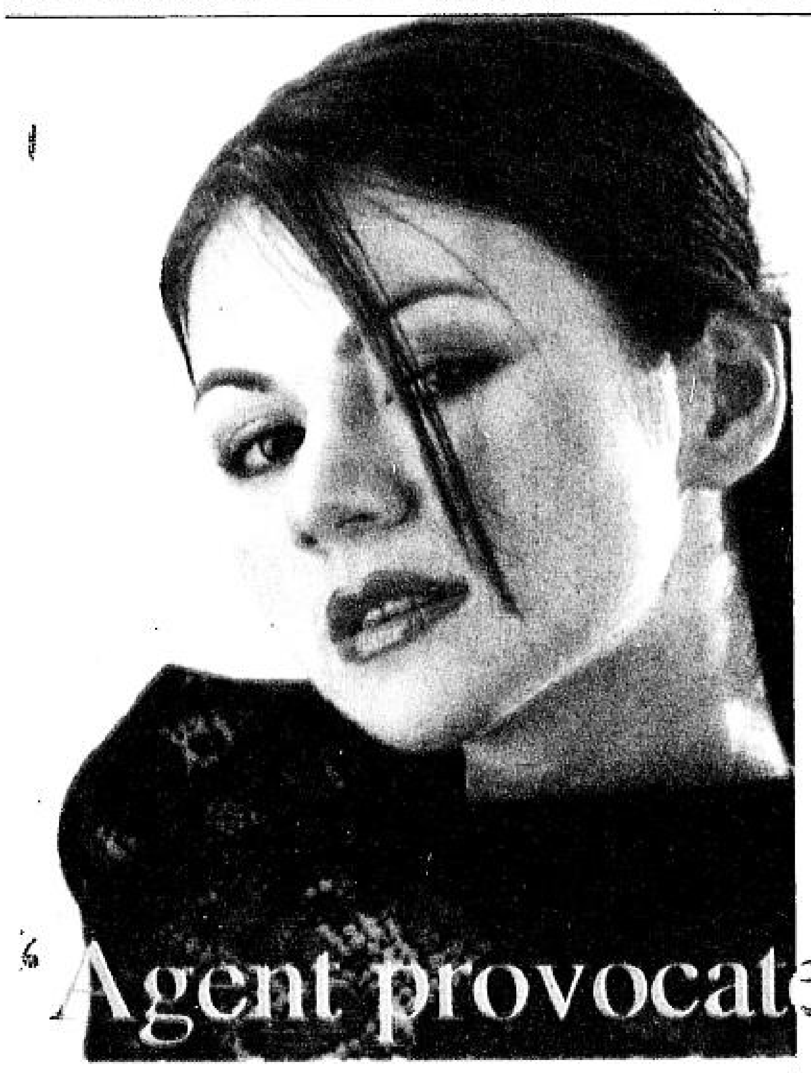

PHOTO BY PATRICK UY
MAKEUP BY MARISSA DE LOS REYES
HAIR BY ROLLIE EVANGELISTA AND MELDY MIRAM OF HAIRBYTES
BLOUSE: COSTUME NATIONAL FROM HOMME ET FEMME, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

'Agent provocateur'

FOR THE HOLIDAYS, the Chic Collection, the latest from Lancôme, is for the provocative woman. Lancôme uses colors between fawn and amber splashed with whisky or flamed with cognac, with textures speckled with gold. A must-have from the Chic Collection is the Fantasy Tube, which takes the smoky lid a step further by adding a slick coat of gilded gloss.

Screen siren Rosanna Roces has already chosen her favorites from the collection: Dreamgirls (200), a lip gloss that adds a golden sheen to a sexy pout; Touché Liberté Foundation in Nacre for a healthy glow, and the essential Palette Mix in Clair that conceals the effects of all those late nights.

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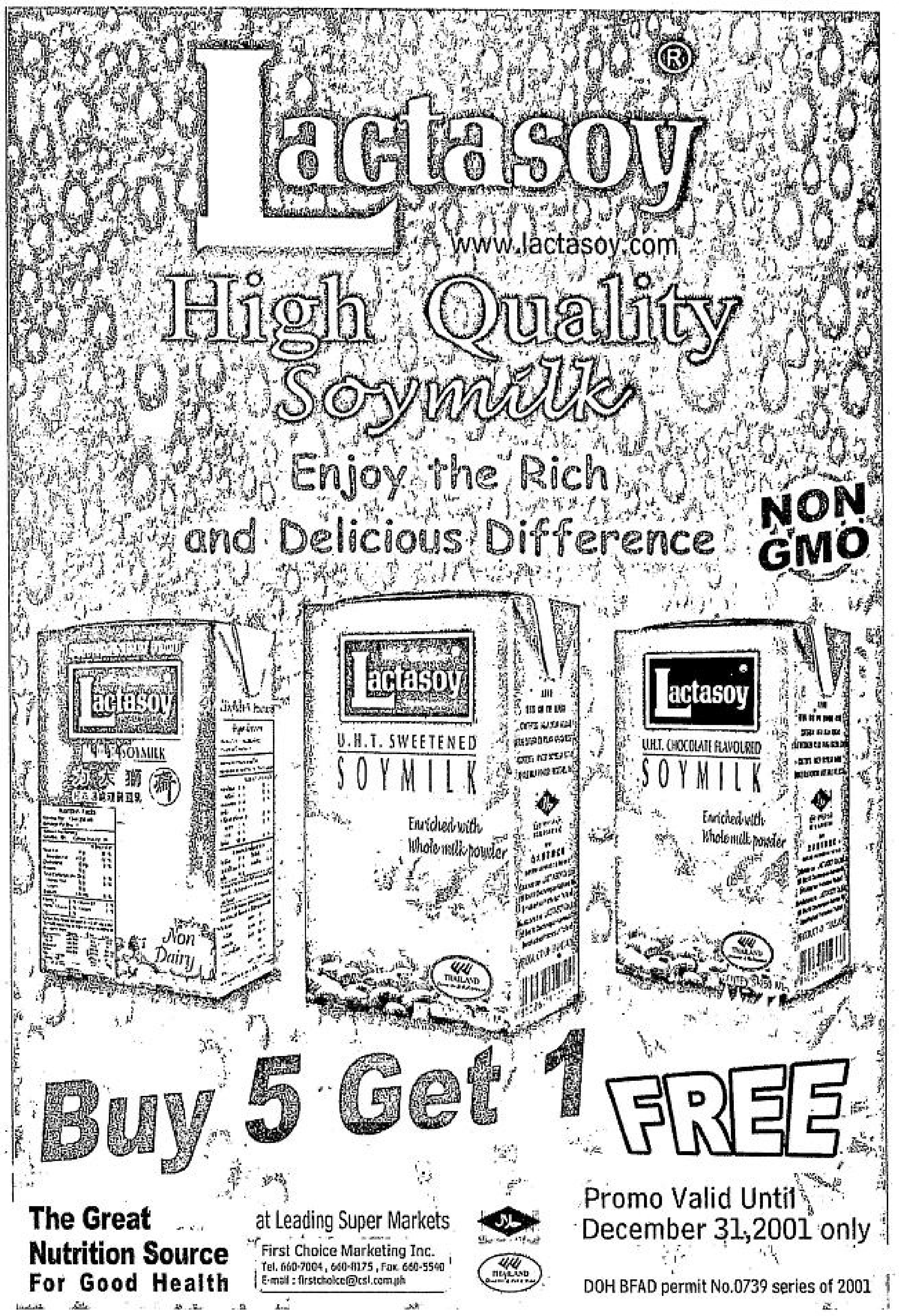

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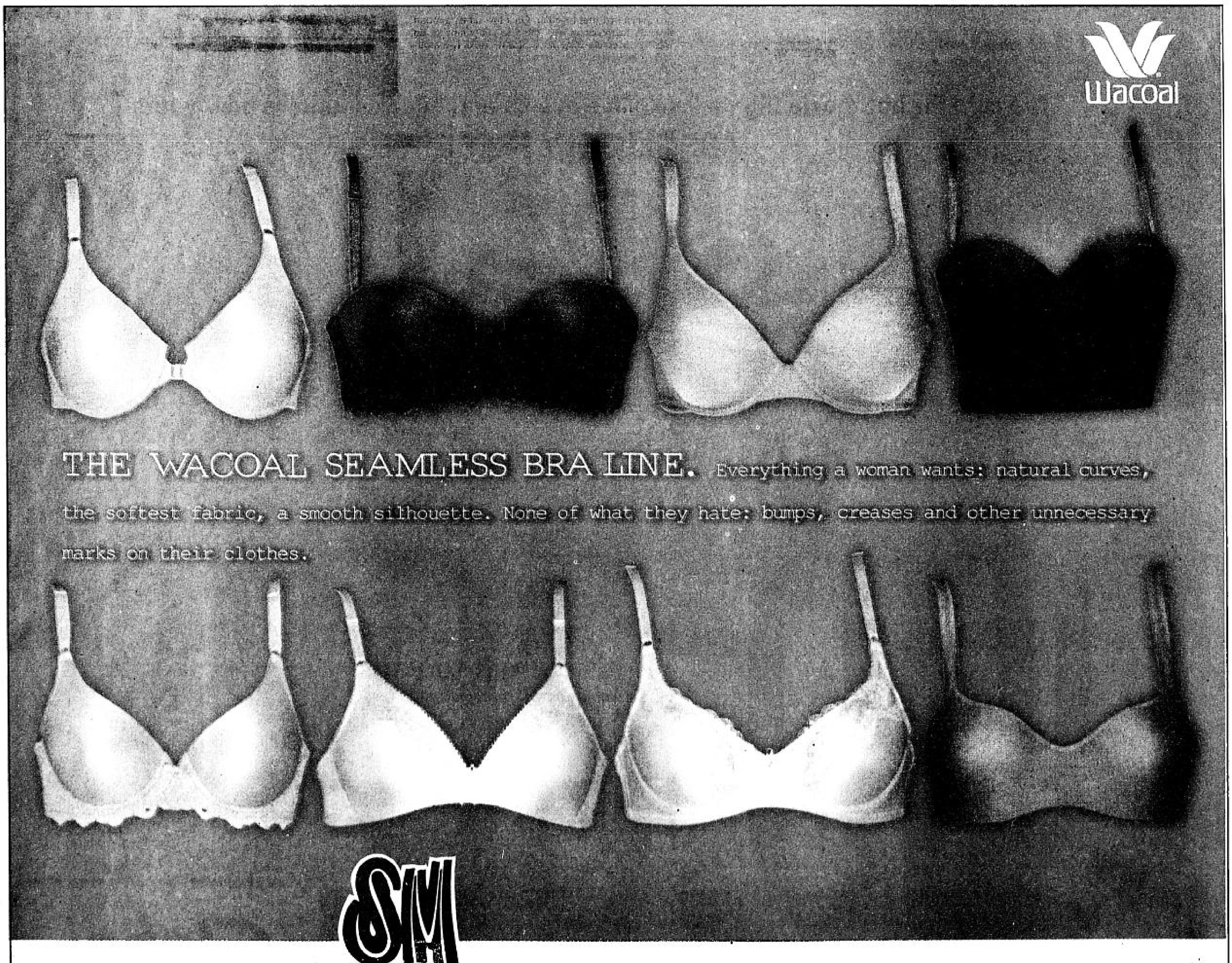

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Yikes, it's stripes!

BY CAMILLE CRUZ
PHOTOS BY PATRICK UY

MODEL:
MICHAL CRUZ

MAKEUP:
ARANKA BROWN FOR M.A.C.

HAIR: LOURD RYAN RAMOS
FOR EMPHASIS

THE NAUTICAL look is hot for now. Shirt and A-line mini by Ensembles

SOME of the more memorable striped shirts are found hanging in a Polo Ralph Lauren store. These are the long-sleeved cotton shirts, boat-neck-style nautical T-shirts and, of course, the popular signature style sport shirts that come in almost every imaginable variety of horizontal stripes.

Today, the stripe has traveled through fashion in various mediums. It has taken America and most of the world by storm. It's in Kate Spade travel accessories. It's in the knitted pieces of Missoni.

We can never miss stripes. They're coming in bigger and brighter forms. Like verticals and horizontals, diagonals are reentering the market in navy and white.

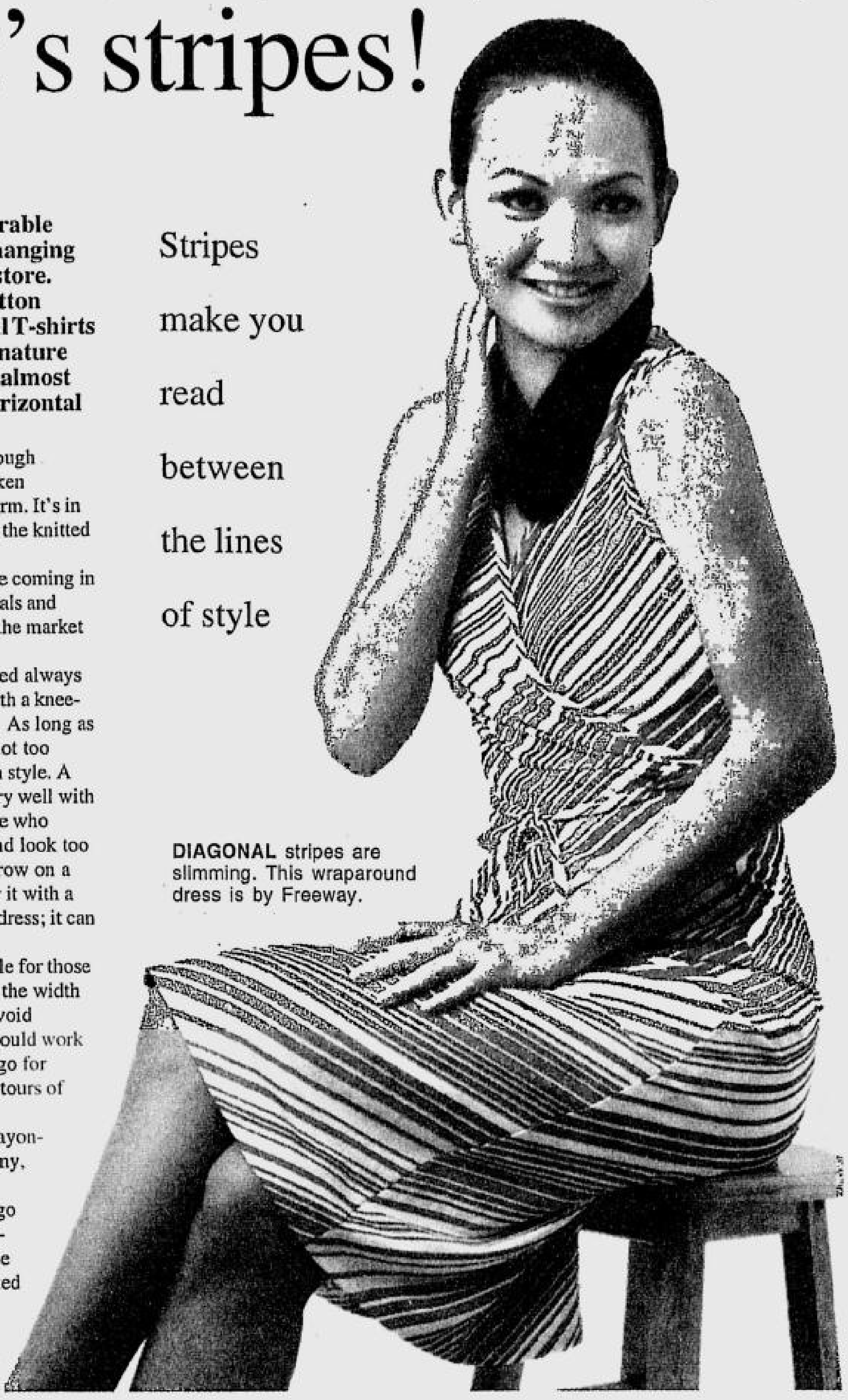
A T-shirt does not need to be paired always with a casual piece. It can be worn with a knee-length skirt or straight-legged slacks. As long as the T-shirt is fitted to the body and not too loose, you will be able to carry it with style. A striped skirt out on the bias works very well with a fitted T-shirt as well. There are some who choose not to wear jeans or shorts and look too casual. What happens is that they throw on a dressy printed top or bottom and pair it with a casual piece. It is the relaxed way to dress; it can give you extra stylish points.

Of course, there is the common rule for those who are conscious about concealing the width of their body. For them it is best to avoid horizontal stripes. Diagonal stripes would work better for them. But they should not go for jersey fabrics that will follow the contours of their bodies.

Tops in similar fabrics such as a rayon-polyester seem to be a favorite of many, especially halter tops.

Some foreign labels such as Mango carry large sizes that even the bigger-boned can fit into without looking like they had to squeeze their way in. Fitted clothes are also available in regular non-body-sticking fabrics such as cotton in styles other than plain and tailored.

> Stripes make you read between the lines of style



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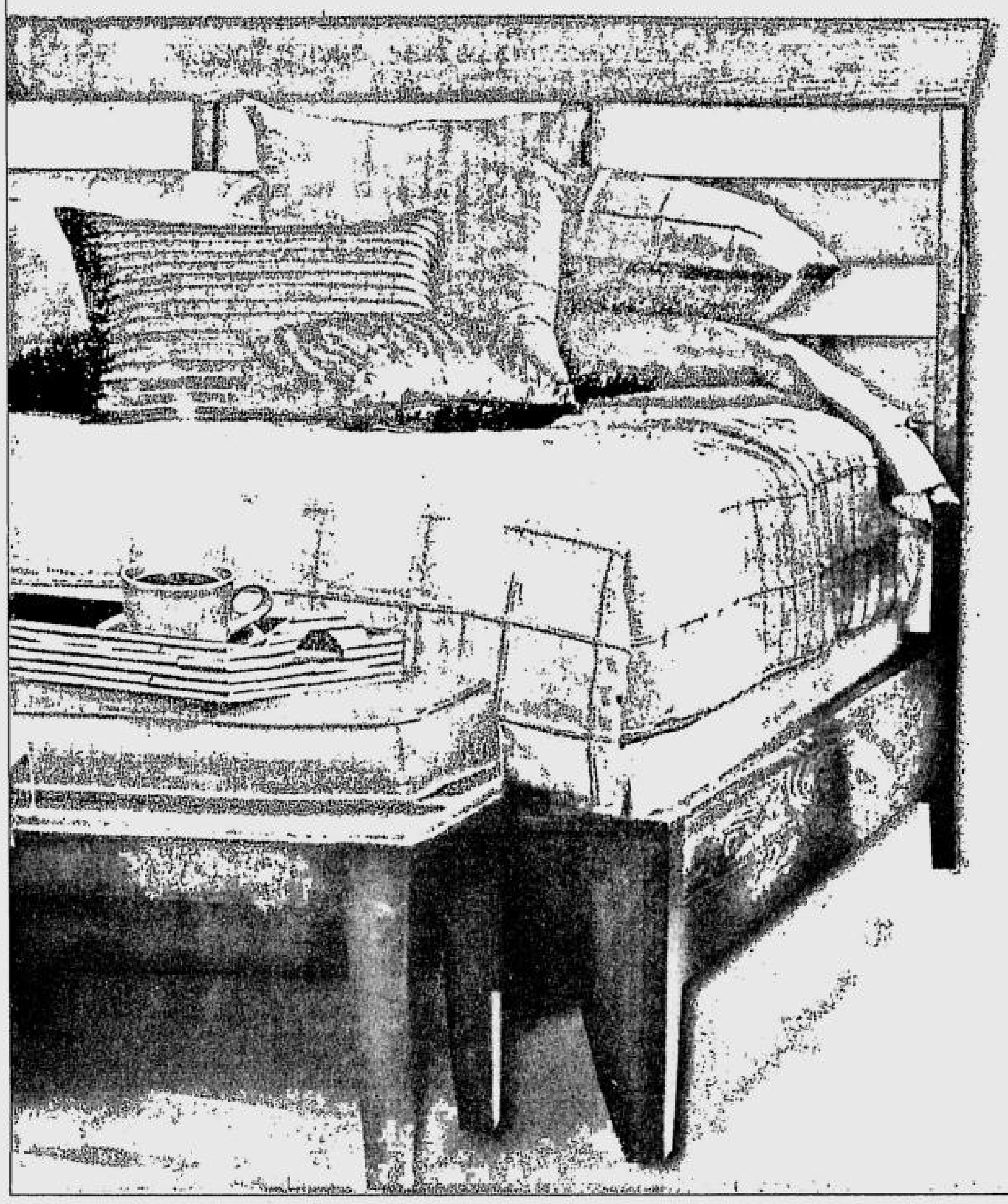

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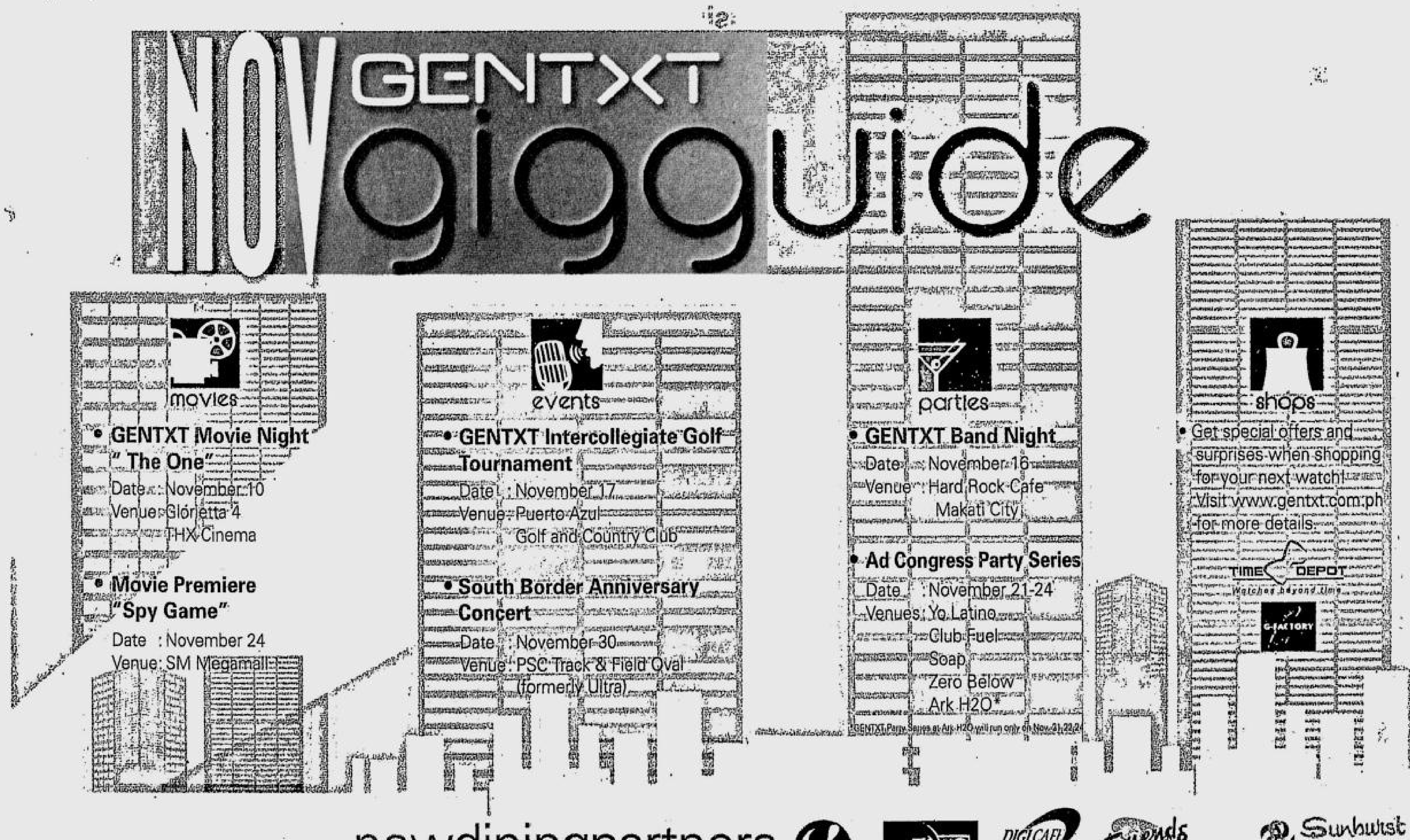

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- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Butuan Regional Museum, Balangay Shrine, Agusan River, National Shrine of the Philippine Flags, St. Joseph Cathedral, Butuan Diocesan Museum, 500-year old Bitaug Tree, Magallanes Marker, Magallanes Municipal Museum, ancestral houses, museum, Laksoy wine making, Agusan River cruise
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P6,236
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P3,200

CAGAYAN DE ORO
P1,417.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 2 nights accommodation w/breakfast

Optional Sights & Activities: Malasag Gardens, Canopy Walk, Del Monte Agri Tour, Golf Package, River Rafting
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P4,796
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,784

CAMIGUIN
Eco-dev & Homestay
P5,500.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights homestay and at a resort (2 persons in a room)
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport/wharf transfers

Add: Roundtrip airfare (via Cagayan de Oro) per person: from P4,796
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,784 (Cagayan de Oro-Camiguin-Cagayan de Oro) per person: P400

CEBU
P3,500.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Cebu City Tour (Fort San Pedro, Magellan's Cross, Basilica Minore del Santo Niño, Casa Gorordo Museum, Taoist Temple)
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P3,996
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,163
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P2,218

COTABATO
Cotabato City Beckons
P3,700.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Pacific Heights Hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- City Tour - Pedro Colina Hill, City Hall, City Wharf, Old Market Mega market, Kutawato Caves; River Cruise along Rio Grande de Mindanao; Tomb of Sultan Kudarat; Tambak (Malong Rivers); Kapimpilan Brassware; ORG Compound (ARMM Government)
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Sultan Kudarat
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P7,181

DAVAO
P2,300.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Barcelo Pearl Farm Beach Resort or Apo View
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Aldevinco, Davao Museum, Crocodile Farm, San Pedro Church, public market
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P4,498
Roundtrip sea fare per person: P3,520
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P2,870

DIPOLOG (Dakak)
P2,385.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Dakak Beach Resort
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Aqua Sports & Dapitan City Tour
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P7,221

DUMAGUETE
(BAIS CITY)
Dolphin Watching
P2,850.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts, 1 packed lunch and 2 dinners
- Dolphin and Whalewatching Tour (including tour guide, spotter, and boat fee)
- Swimming and snorkeling activities
- Roundtrip airport transfers
- Land transfers

Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P5,558
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,650

GENERAL SANTOS
Tuna Capital
P1,800.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: General Santos Fish Port, Philbest Canning Corp., RD Export & Cold Storage, Shopping
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P5,396
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,910

ILOILO
P1,200.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Iloilo City Heritage Tour, Golf Package, Guimaras Agri Tour, South/North Countryside Tours
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P3,896
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,271

LAGUNA/RIZAL
P2,200.00 2D/1N
Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at a hotel
- 1 breakfast
- Private transportation
- Visit to Antipolo Church, Pakil (Our Lady of Turumba), Blanco Museum, Nemiranda Gallery, Pacheco Gallery, Paete Woodcraft

Optional Sights & Activities: Visit to Lumban Embroidery (boat ride P580 per person)

LAOAG
P3,500.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Fort Ilocandia
- On site transfers
- Vigan tour
- Roundtrip transfer from Laoag airport or Laoag Bus terminal
- Free entrance to Casino Filipino

Optional Sights & Activities: Pagudpud tour P750, Laoag City tour P650
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P3,600
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P1,000

LEYTE
Enchanting Eastern Visayas
P1,600.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at MacArthur Hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Sohoton Cave, Marabut Marine Park, Sto. Niño Shrine and public market
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: from P5,138
Roundtrip bus fare per person : from P1,714

MARINDUQUE
Sea, Sun & Spa
P1,900.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers
- Whole day tour with lunch at Gaspar Island, Sulphur Springs & Sussana Hot Springs

Add: Roundtrip airfare per person : from P2,600
Roundtrip bus fare/ferry per person: P600

MINDORO, PUERTO GALERA
P2,820.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airconditioned tourist bus
- Roundtrip ferry service
- Roundtrip jeepney service
- Tour coordinator's services

PAMPANGA
P3,950.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers (Manila-Clark-Manila)
- Rolling Tour of Angeles & Clark

Optional Sights & Activities: Mt. Pinatubo Eco Tour

PALAWAN
Busuanga
WaterSports (Northern Palawan)
P6,000.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Maribacan Bay
- Full board meal
- Roundtrip transfer by land & boat from Busuanga
- 1 hour use of sit-on kayak

Coron
Weekend Sailaway (Friday-Monday)
P6,400.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- Roundtrip passage (2 nights on WG&A and 1 night at Dive Link)
- Full board meals
- On site transfers
- Coron Island tour, Kayangan Lake, Maquinit Hot Springs, Gutob Bay Island Hopping, Kayaking

Puerto Princesa
P1,800.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Palawan Museum, Crocodile Farming Institute, city market, War Memorial, Cathedral, St. Paul Subterranean National Park
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P5,296
Roundtrip sea fare per person: P2,046

PANGASINAN
P1,600.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at San Fabian Hotel
- 2 breakfasts

Optional Sights & Activities: Our Lady of Manaoag, Señor Divino Tesoro Church, Lingayen Gulf Memorial, Hundred Islands, swimming, shopping
Add: Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P440

SUBIC BAY/OLONGAPO
"Shop Til You Drop"
P1,388.00 2D/1N
Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at Subic Int'l. Hotel.
- 1 breakfast
- Roundtrip airconditioned transportation
- Subic Base Tour, Shopping

SUBIC BAY/OLONGAPO
"Shop Til You Drop"
P3,235.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Subic Int'l. Hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airconditioned transportation
- Subic Base Tour, Shopping

SURIGAO
P1,050.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Tour of Day-Asan Floating Village, Sagisi Island, Historical Sights, Mabua Pebble Beach; Cave Exploration
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P6,936
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,630

TAGAYTAY/TAAL HERITAGE TOUR
P4,400.00 2D/1N
Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at Tagaytay Picnic Grove
- 1 breakfast
- Taal Heritage Tour (Leon Apacible Historical Landmark, Marcela Marino Agoncillo Museum & Monument, Basilica of San Martin de Tours, Church of Our Lady of Caysasay, shopping for native products and delicacies)
- Tagaytay City Tour (People's Park, Japanese Garden, Tagaytay Picnic Grove, Mushroom Burger Restaurant & Plantation, Residence Inn Mini Zoo, Flower Farm)
- Private transportation

TUGUEGARAO
Whitewater Rafting & Kayaking
P5,000.00 2D/1N
Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- All equipment necessary (kayaks, rafts, helmets, lifevest)
- Travel insurance coverage of P100,000
- Transportation in and around Tuguegarao City

Optional Sights & Activities: Callao & Sierra Caves, Pinacanauan and Chico River Rapids, bat cave, whitewater kayaking, rapelling
Add: Roundtrip airfare per person: P4,776
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P600

From CEBU (same itinerary and inclusions as indicated in the Manila packages)

BACOLOD
P1,400.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person:P3,956
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P376

BOHOL
P2,800.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person: P1,112
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P200

BORACAY
P3,200.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person: P3,900
Roundtrip ferry (Caticlan) per person: from P60

BUTUAN
P1,050.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P2,596

CAMIGUIN
P5,500.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person: P2,600
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P650

DAVAO
P2,300.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P4,498
Roundtrip sea fare per person: P1,970
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P854

DIPOLOG (Dakak)
P2,385.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P1,550

DUMAGUETE
P2,850.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person:P3,956
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P376

GENERAL SANTOS
P1,800.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person:P4,156

ILOILO
P1,200.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P3,518
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P690

LEYTE
P1,600.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P420
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P298

SURIGAO
P1,050.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person: P2,156
Roundtrip sea fare per person: P730
Roundtrip bus fare per person: P367

From DAVAO (same itinerary and inclusions as indicated in the Manila packages)

BACOLOD
P1,400.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498 (Cebu-Bacolod) per person:P3,956
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Bacolod) per person: from P376

BOHOL
P2,800.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: P4,498; (Cebu-Tagbilaran) per person: P1,112
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Tagbilaran) per person: from P200

BORACAY
P3,200.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498 (Cebu-Caticlan) per person: P3,900
Roundtrip ferry (Caticlan) per person: from P60

BUTUAN
P1,050.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P500

CAMIGUIN
P5,500.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498; (Cebu-Camiguin) per person: P2,600
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Camiguin) per person: from P650

CEBU
P3,500.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498

COTABATO
P3,700.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P600

DUMAGUETE
P2,850.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498 (Cebu-Bacolod) per person:P3,956
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Bacolod) per person: from P376

GENERAL SANTOS
P1,800.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P680
Roundtrip bus fare per person: from P250

ILOILO
P1,200.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare per person: from P3,195
Roundtrip sea fare per person: from P2,630

LEYTE
P1,600.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: from P4,498;
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Tacloban) per person: from P420
Roundtrip bus fare (Cebu-Tacloban) per person: from P298

SURIGAO
P1,050.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu) per person: P4,498
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Surigao) per person: P730
Roundtrip bus fare (Cebu-Surigao) per person: P367

From Subic/Clark

Airfare (Clark-Manila-Clark) per person: P2,700 (Clark-Cebu-Clark) P5,338

Bus fare: (Subic-Manila-Subic) per person: P266

From Laoag

Airfare (Laoag-Manila-Laoag) per person: P3,600

Bus fare: (Laoag-Manila-Laoag) per person: P1,000

DAY TOURS

BULACAN Historical Tour P1,600.00 per person

CAVITE-BATANGAS Historical Tour P1,990.00 per person

CAYLABNE P1,900.00 per person

CORREGIDOR P900.00 per person
(Optional Tour: Light & Sound Show - P150.00/person)

ISLAND COVE P1,350.00 per person

QUEZON PROVINCE Culinary Tour P1,600.00 per person

RIZAL-LAGUNA Cottage Industry/ Craft Tour P1,702.00 per person

Inclusions:
- Minimum of 6 pax
- Private aircon transport/ferry ride for Corregidor
- Services of a Guide or a Coordinator
- Set lunch
- Entrance Fees

Bookings and reservations must be coursed through the following Philtoa Members only:

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You in a holiday mode?

(From page D1)

ready driven as professionals or entrepreneurs.

I have entrepreneurs right in our magazine staff. Our fashion editorial assistant **Fiona Lucas** is joining friends in opening a boutique called Tabu Swimwear—**Amanda Griffin**, the well-known model, and **Isabel Engwa** are the founders, with **Paolo Araneta** and **Alberto Besa**.

Two weeks ago I was at the successful launch of Techno-Marine, the watch that has turned into a lifestyle brand since its creation by Los Angeles-based sportsman **Franck Dubarry** in 1997, snapped up by the likes of **Madonna**, **Sharon Stone** and **Ringo Starr**.

The Peninsula launch crowd was a lucrative mix of jewelry buyers (read: matrons), chic-setters (including **Ting Duque**, who's looking lovelier than ever, escorted by **Peter Limjoco**), fashionistas and even politicians (including **Miguel Zubiri** who gave **Vina Morales** a good *beso-beso*), perhaps because it was the hyped event that week and Manilans simply loved to dress up or down, or perhaps because the brand has a varied line and look for a wide appeal—its materials range from diamonds to translucent plastic.

But aside from the product, what struck me were the young people behind it, who are out to drive its sales come what may.

The head, **Raffy Florencio**, is a 31-year-old Ateneo graduate who, since I met him years ago, has always been telling me how hard business could get, but in the same breath, would tell me how he longs for the good fight. He's one of the few tenacious whiners I know, who seems to thrive on a near burnout.

He's run the family business Rafael Jewellery through good and bad times.

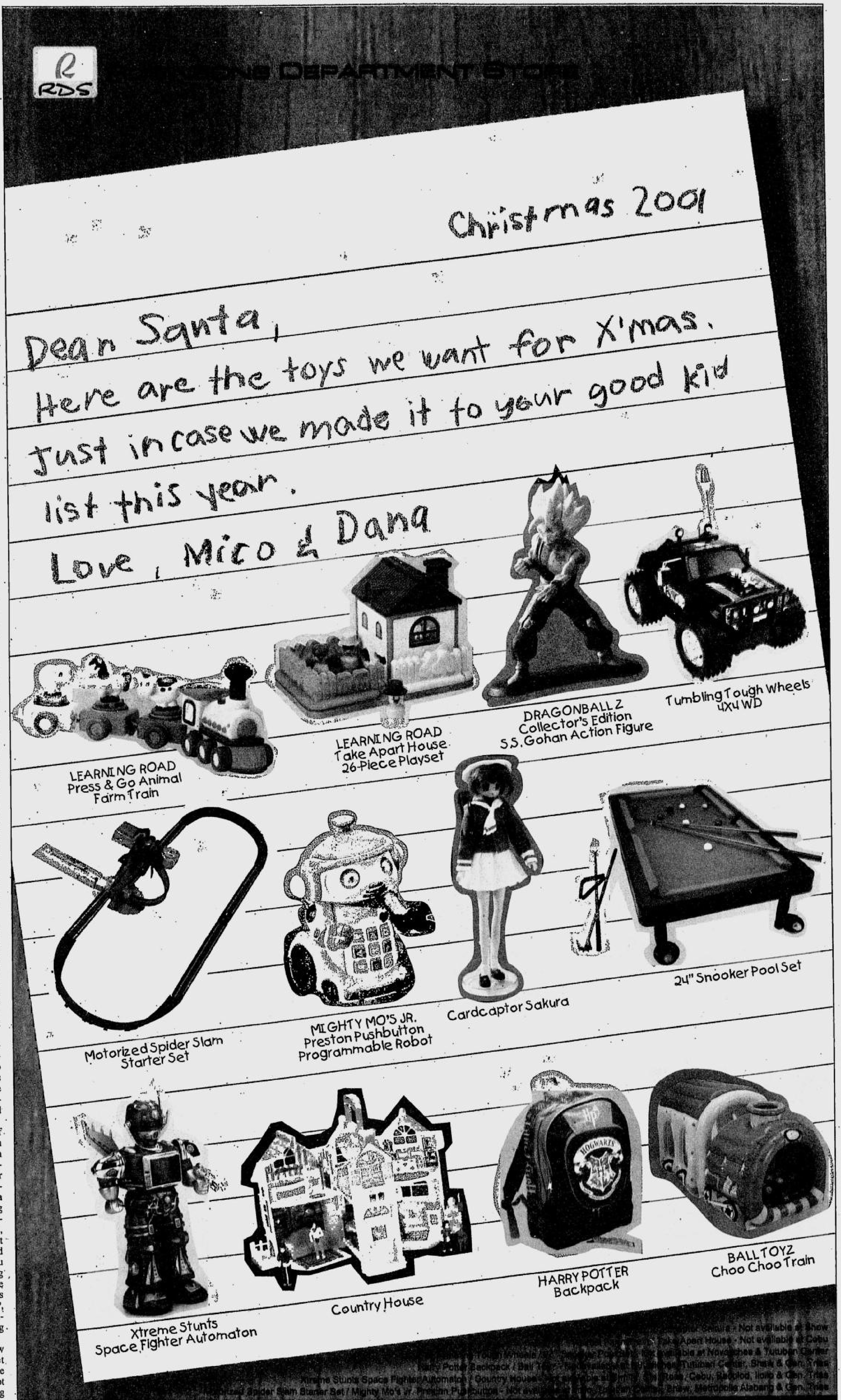
These are not the best of times for jewelry, but he told me last week, "I've been in jewelry for years, I've seen the worse," and it's not making him cop out. He could be speaking for many businessmen out there.

No matter the sluggish consumer spending, he's plunged into the watch business because, he said, "the watch market is bigger than jewelry. And I have my gut-feel."

Indeed at the end of the day, it boils down to feel and guts, in business and elsewhere. Soaking up beer and red wine, our editors Carlo and **Alya** took turns throwing angst and calls for surrender (to life's crises, imagined, as usual) at Raffy, who chided back, "Haven't you heard of that one big fight?" He meant the battle call of Ateneans (who lost the UAAP, by the way) when under siege—the one big fight.

Perhaps that's how we should greet Christmas—with one big fight. And I'm not talking about fighting to be in the incredible queue to "Harry Potter."

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet. net


RDS
Robinsons Department Store

Christmas 2001

Dear Santa,
Here are the toys we want for X'mas.
Just in case we made it to your good kid list this year.
Love, Mico & Dana

LEARNING ROAD
Press & Go Animal Farm Train

LEARNING ROAD
Take Apart House
26-Piece Playset

DRAGONBALL Z
Collector's Edition
S.S. Gohan Action Figure

Tumbling Tough Wheels
4X4 WD

Motorized Spider Slam
Starter Set

MIGHTY MO'S JR.
Preston Pushbutton
Programmable Robot

Cardcaptor Sakura

24" Snooker Pool Set

Xtreme Stunts
Space Fighter Automaton

Country House

HARRY POTTER
Backpack

BALL TOYZ
Choo Choo Train

[illegible] Cardcaptor Sakura - Not available at Shaw
[illegible] Take Apart House - Not available at Cebu
Tumbling Tough Wheels / 24" Snooker Pool Set - Not available at Novaliches & Tutuban Center
Harry Potter Backpack / Ball Toyz - Not available at Novaliches, Tutuban Center, Shaw & Gen. Trias
Xtreme Stunts Space Fighter Automaton / Country House - Not available at [illegible] Sta. Rosa, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo & Gen. Trias
Motorized Spider Slam Starter Set / Mighty Mo's Jr. Preston Pushbutton - Not available at [illegible] Tutuban Center, Shaw, Metropolis Alabang & Gen. Trias

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The world is at your feet

Shoes: A Lexicon of Style
By Valerie Steele
Periplus, 1999, 192 pages

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez

REVIEW

FASHION historian Steele says, "there's a little Imelda in all of us," and I have to agree. The satisfaction one gets out of buying a new outfit, no matter how expensive, cannot compare to the thrill of a new pair of shoes. It doesn't matter if they're an exquisitely beaded pair of Manolo Blahniks or a pair of the latest cross trainers from Nike; it is always a joy to get a new pair of shoes. Maybe I'm a shoe fetishist but consider this, an average woman has at least 12 pairs of shoes in her closet. And I believe that given our former first lady's resources, many of us could easily amass hundreds of pairs. The endless variety alone is overwhelming—pumps, mules, Mary Janes, thongs, clogs, platforms—the list is endless. And there is a specific shoe that matches specific clothes, activities and weather. All this is proof that shoes have gone beyond their basic function of protecting the feet.

In Steele's book "Shoes: A Lexicon of Style," the author divides shoes—their types, qualities and connotations—into five chapters. "Heels," "Sex & Shoes," "Like Being Barefoot," "Booted Amazons" and "Sneaker Chic." Beyond simply tracing the evolution of shoes through fashion, the author also explores shoes as social symbols and signifiers.

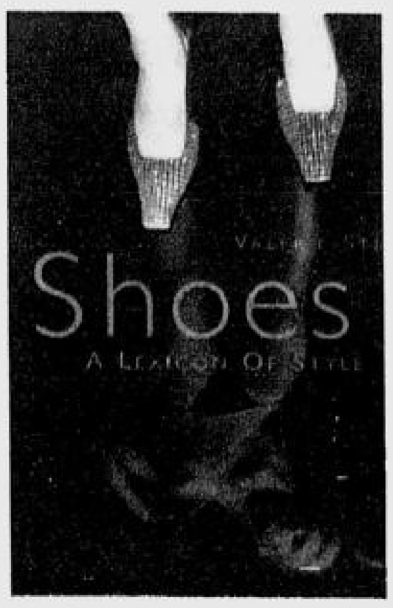
Shoes and sex

A common predominant theme is the relationship between shoes and sex. The sexual associations with the high heel or stiletto being the most stereotypical. One reason Steele offers is that high heels are closely associated with femininity. It is practically the only type of shoe that is exclusive to women. It also gives women a sense of vulnerability when they are teetering on 5-inch heels with a diameter no bigger than a thumb tax. Beyond this, there is an instant transformation that happens when a woman puts a pair of high heels on. Aside from looking taller and thinner, the way she stands suddenly changes. The arch of her back is emphasized and her breasts are pushed forward. The shape of the foot and calves also change. Even for the wearer, high heels sort of demand a different, sexier attitude. The king of sexy shoes, Manolo Blahnik, once said, "When a woman asks me about heels, I say try a pair on. If you don't see the magic, switch to Reeboks."

On the other hand, heels are impractical everyday shoes, especially if one has to do a lot of walking and therefore also called "limousine shoes" suggesting that the wearer is privileged enough to be driven around. This could also be why, when referring to the upper class, we say "well-heeled."

Today, however, women have the freedom to wear many different kinds of shoes and still be sexy and feminine. The masculine loafer alone has gone through many changes and with JP Tod's driving shoes available in more than 100 colors, it has become the most stylish unisex shoes in the world. Even the classic Gucci loafer has been reborn under the reign of designer Tom Ford and its incarnation is nothing short of cutting-edge sexy. Even flats can be ultra feminine when we consider the variety of materials they come in. Leather to linen, satin to suede, with the ballet slipper still being the daintiest and most feminine flat of all.

Sandals, which leave the foot practically naked, are also extremely sexy. They are also liberating, giving the feeling of being barefoot. Of course, strappy sandals are associated with bondage, especially leather ones. But more than anything, Steele says there are significant parallels between sandals and women's social and sexual liberation. They came to vogue at about



the time when women gained the freedom to wear trousers, short skirts and revealing swimwear. When it comes to platform type of sandals that gained popularity during the '70s,. there is much debate. Many hardcore fashion "gurus" hate them. Paris Vogue declared that platforms say "I'm short so I'll cheat" and that they are nothing like high heels, which are elegant and sexy.

Power

When it comes to signifying power, boots are the ultimate. According to Steele, this could be derived from the history of boots. They are associated with horseback riding, for which they were originally created, and therefore have military undertones. In feudal societies, knights and aristocrats rode horses and boots were symbols of high power and status. Add high heels to a boot and the reactions one gets are off the charts.

Steele appropriately ends the book with "Sneaker Chic." In the millennium, sneakers have become very popular. Even high-end designers like Chanel, Prada and Donna Karan have had their takes on sport shoes. "Sneaker chic" can be as cult as anything with the most popular ones being the hardest to find. Logos take predominance over names with Nike Swoosh, Converse Star and Adidas Stripe being among the most popular ones. The sneaker trend started with the fitness boom in the '80s and the increasing variety of shoes have brought them to the fore. Today, about 85 percent of sneakers aren't sold for athletic purposes. Just look at the feet of the new club generation and see for yourself.

Valerie Steele consistently writes about fashion from a cultural standpoint in an entertaining way. Even if her books are intelligent, there is nothing too cerebral about them and they are always a joy to read. The quality of photographs that accompanies her text is always remarkable and her books' over-all production values are always superior. This is why they are great to collect or give as gifts. They also prompt more than one reading most of the time because her insights are original and she goes to great lengths to research the accuracy of her claims.

"Shoes: A Lexicon of Style" is no exception. And after pouring over the drop-dead gorgeous shoes, one comes closer to understanding Imelda's fascination with them and we guiltily admit that we share it—if not just a little.

Available at Powerbooks.

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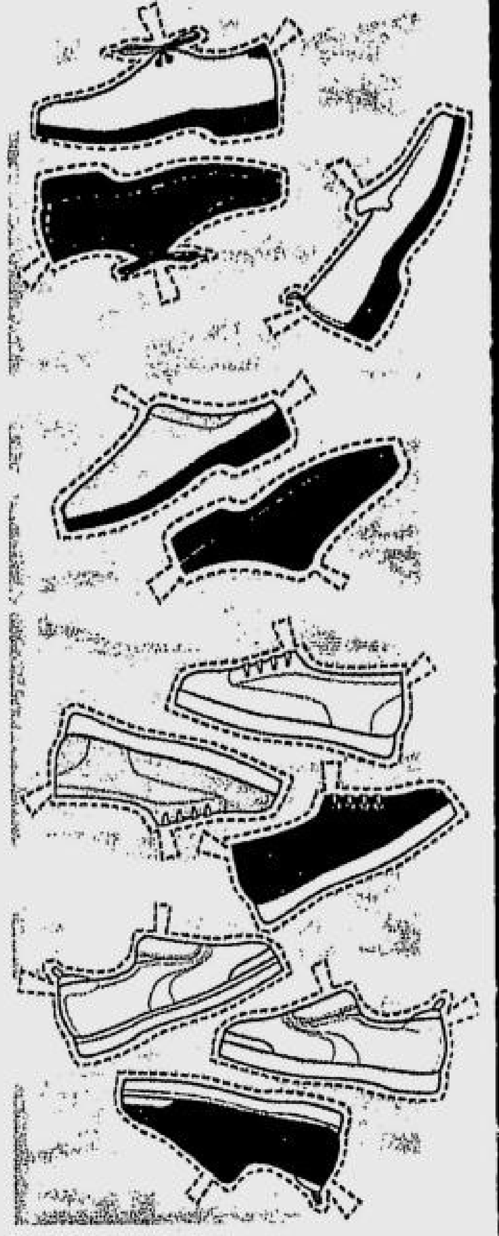
ARIVA WATER HEATERS

Sneak in some style

By Camille T. Cruz
Illustrations by James Reyes



SOME labels have become style symbols in themselves. Consider the horse and polo player in the logo of Polo Ralph Lauren, the triangle of GUESS?, and the checkmark of Nike.

For a time, Nike was the craze in rubber shoes. It transcended athletic wear. It was worn with jeans, slacks and sometimes skirts. Also worn for comfort were other rubber shoes such as Sketchers, which were thicker in soles and tapered to a more non-athletic but wearable street footwear.

An alternative to the rubber-soled shoe is Keds. Keds has come a long way from the classic champion oxford sneaker, which high school students used for PE classes. In the last five years, Keds globally has revolutionized its very conservative brand and introduced a number of stylish sneaker alternatives.

The Keds original line refers to the original champion oxford slip-on. Locally, it comes in white and navy.

Keds Relax is a range of restful, flexible footwear with design and construction features that enhance comfort and ease.

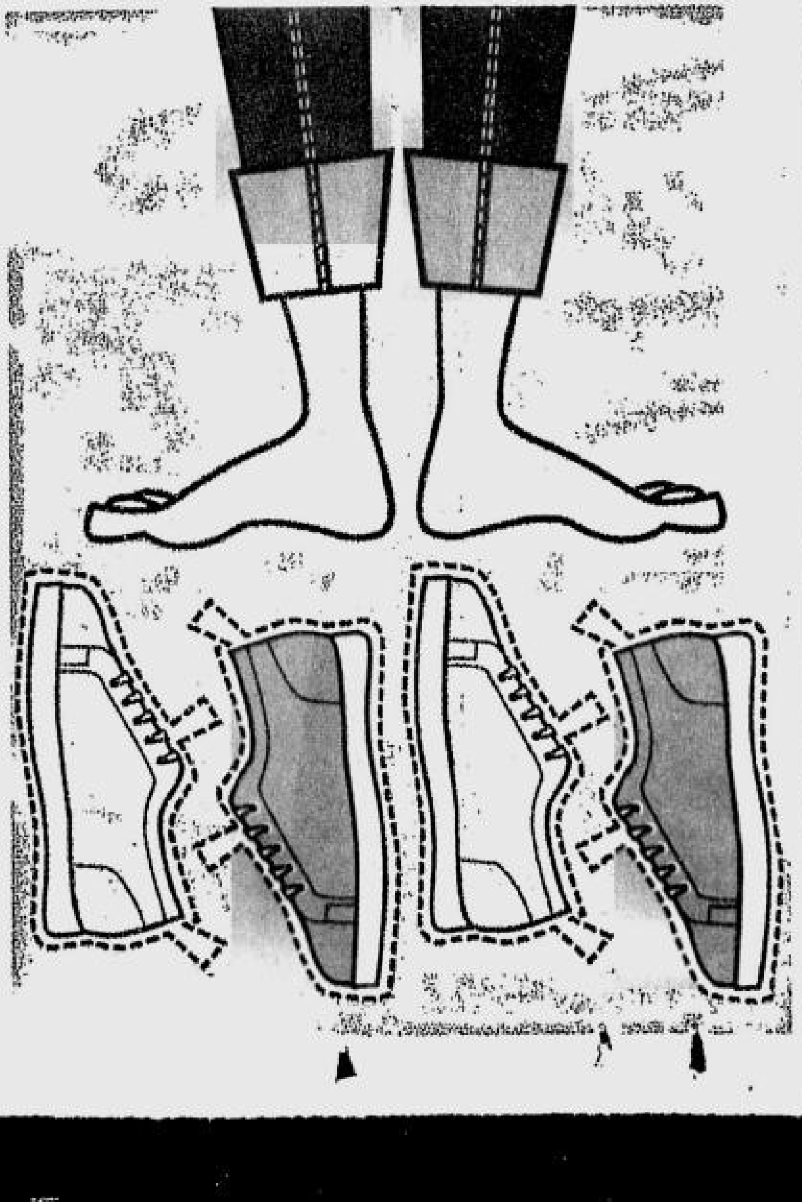
Keds Sport takes its design and construction cues from athletics.

Keds Casual is a range of casual leather shoes. It consists of dressy, casual basics.

Office attire can actually be worn with a pair of Keds. Even a skirt ensemble, a gown or a wedding dress can be worn with sneakers, according to the Keds philosophy.

If you're going for a nautical look, it is best to stick with navy sneakers. When you want a variation, try the leather sneakers in navy.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz-@hotmail.com



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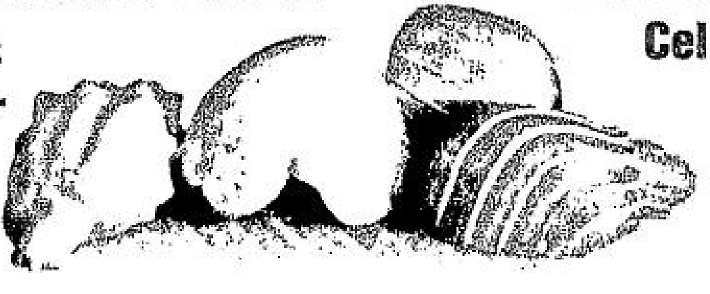

Sorceress of 'abaca-dabra'

(Story on page E2)

Celestial houseware *(Story on page E6)*

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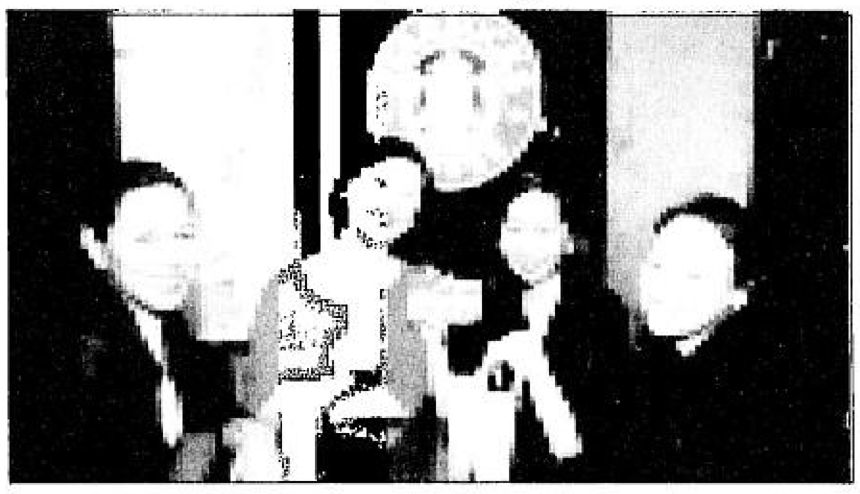

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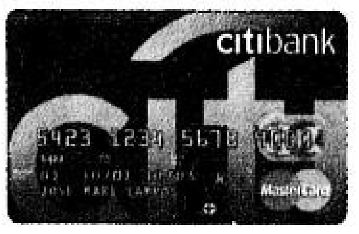

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Per DTI-NCR permit No. 1811, Series of 2001

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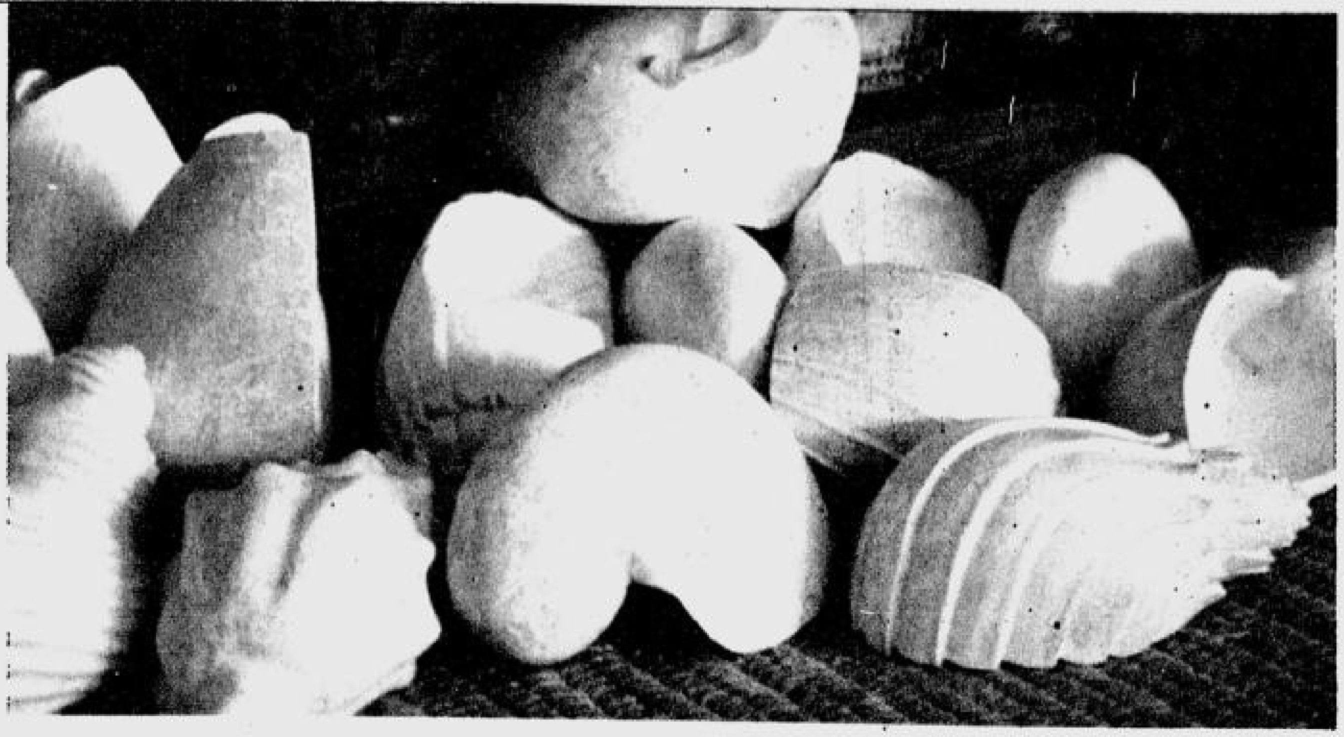
CABBAGE bowl, *bayong* planter and serving tray all made from *nito*. The planter box carries the star fruit design.



WOODEN shells with Soumak's finish, carved wooden nuts in the box, narra table with metal base and floor covering, using Yola Johnson's binding weave.

Sorceress of 'abaca-dabra'

BY AVIE GOCHOCO-PEREZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

"YOLA." "Soumak." The names sound exotic, even a tad intimidating. But the names belong to a gentle Filipina with a boy's haircut and slim black-rimmed eyeglasses. They also belong to a Filipina whose interior and product designs bring Filipino art and expert craftsmanship in all their natural elegance to the doorstep of a sophisticated international audience. Yola Johnson is Filipina and at 54 finds no need to dye her hair. The white streaks peeking out of her crown of hair lead people to address her with a respectful "ma'am." She loves that. She drives her latest-model maroon Audi with the adrenalin of a woman in her 20s, but the passion and pain in this artist tame her into coaxing beautiful form and function out of ordinary materials found in the Philippine wilds.

Yes, if University of the Philippines fine arts graduate Yolanda Perez (later struggling artist Yolanda Laudico until her first marriage was annulled) is perhaps still little known, blame her "secret" showroom of modern *nito* baskets, wooden chests, beds with roses carved into the headboards and footboards, woven fabrics, *cogon* stools, woven *abaca* and raffia rugs, etc., etc., which is tucked into a hidden corner of South Makati. The showroom is a near-secret although the name Soumak for her collection is merely an acronym for, you couldn't have guessed, South Makati.

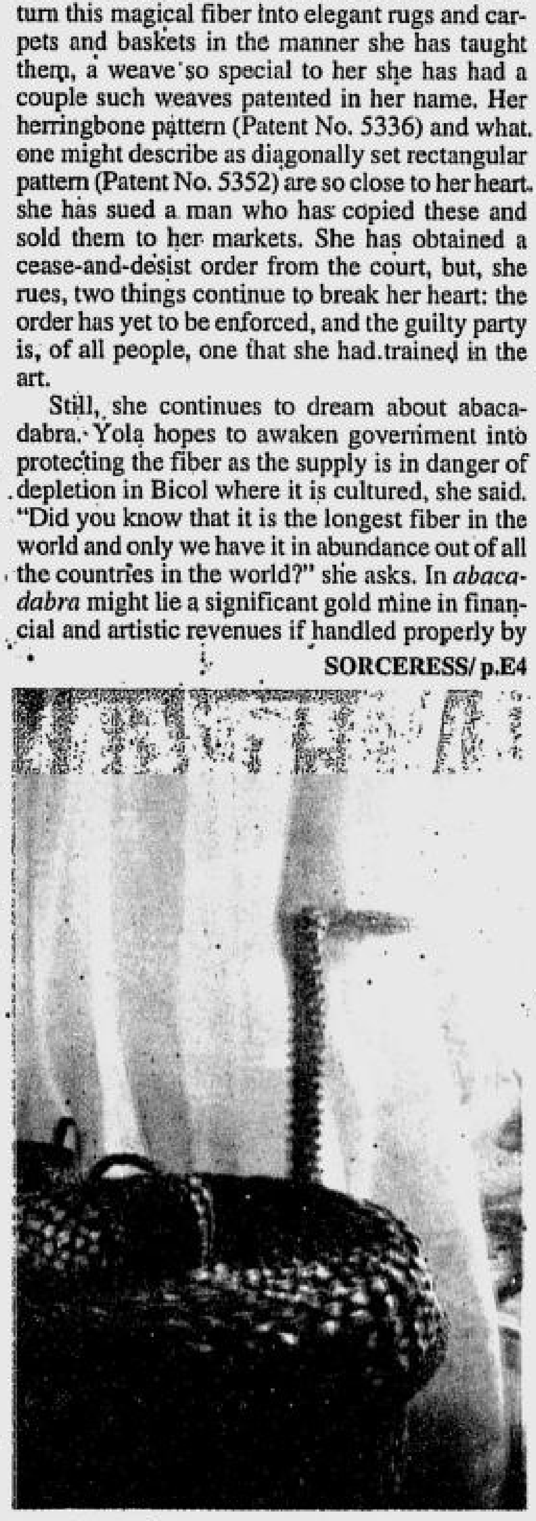
Magical

"*Abaca-dabra* is how I call it," Yola smiles as she explains how she adores that "magical" fiber found in abundance only in the Philippines. It is magical, she swears, as it is so sturdy even the American dollar bill has it in its composition. It is magical because one weaver she employs in the province, mute since birth, suddenly said, "'*Gandang umaga*" one morning after days and days of stroking the fiber into submission to a certain look. It is magical because Yola saw two girls with pimple-studded faces come away with gloriously clean, soft complexions after only a month of weaving the fiber.

Yola's abaca-dabra is sourced in Cagayan de Oro where it grows wild. Her weavers twist and turn this magical fiber into elegant rugs and carpets and baskets in the manner she has taught them, a weave so special to her she has had a couple such weaves patented in her name. Her herringbone pattern (Patent No. 5336) and what one might describe as diagonally set rectangular pattern (Patent No. 5352) are so close to her heart. she has sued a man who has copied these and sold them to her markets. She has obtained a cease-and-desist order from the court, but, she rues, two things continue to break her heart: the order has yet to be enforced, and the guilty party is, of all people, one that she had trained in the art.

Still, she continues to dream about abacadabra. Yola hopes to awaken government into protecting the fiber as the supply is in danger of depletion in Bicol where it is cultured, she said. "Did you know that it is the longest fiber in the world and only we have it in abundance out of all the countries in the world?" she asks. In *abacadabra* might lie a significant gold mine in financial and artistic revenues if handled properly by

SORCERESS/ p.E4



ABACA line curtain made by Elisa Reyes for Soumak is held by a wooden rickrack curtain drawer. Beside it is a *cogon* hamper.

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Karl Edward has scheduled other one-of-a-kind weekends bazaars. On Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2, the "Import, Export" bazaar will be held also at the Dusit Hotel ballroom. "Shop @ the Fort" continues at the NBC Tent on Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23.

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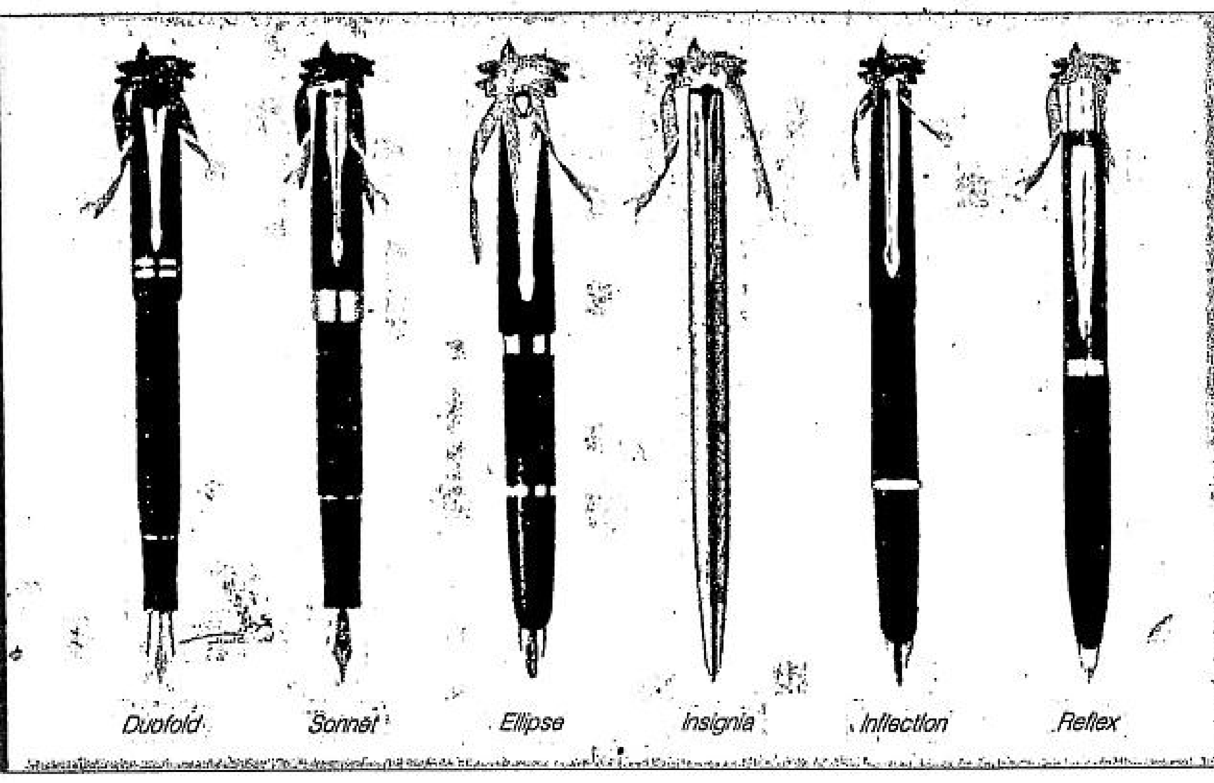

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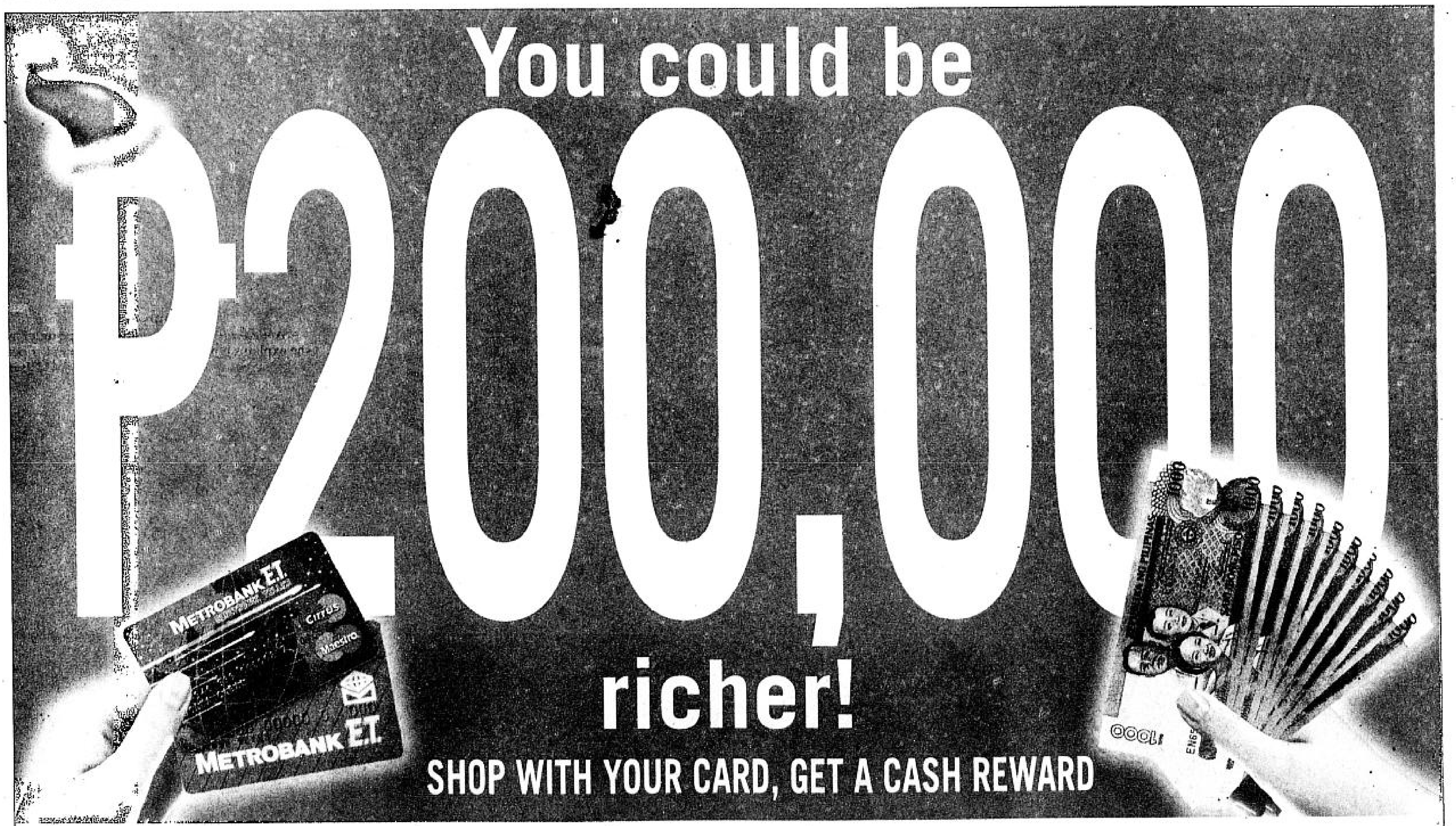

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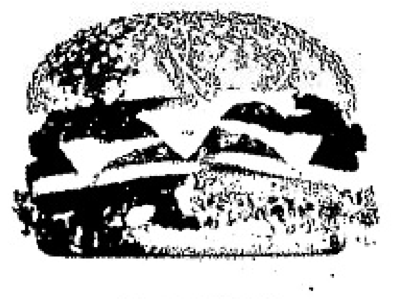

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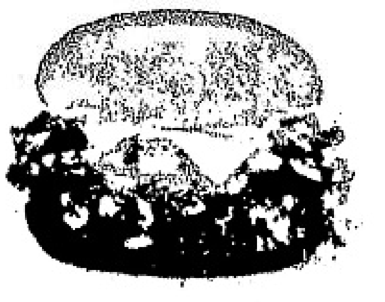

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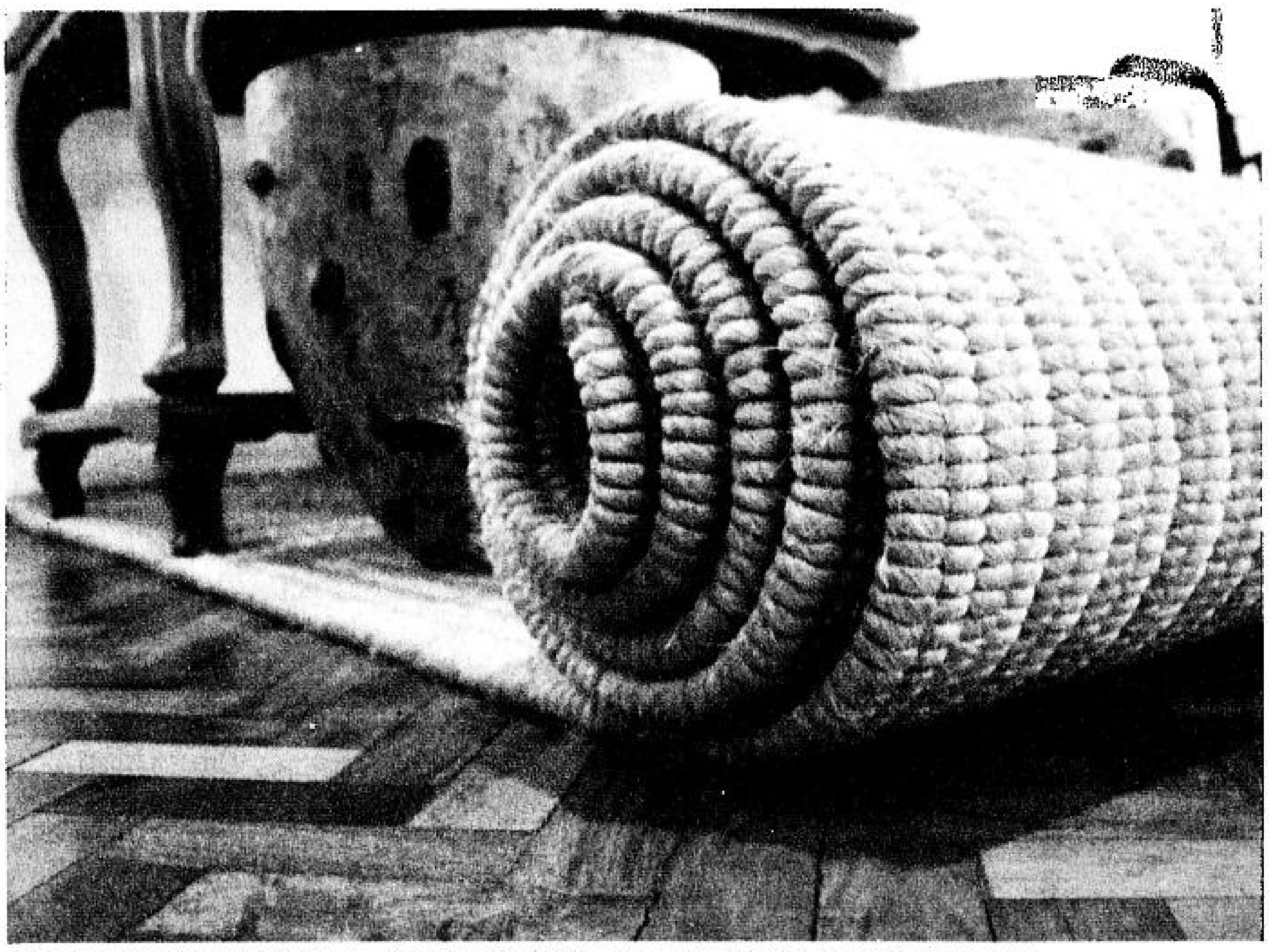
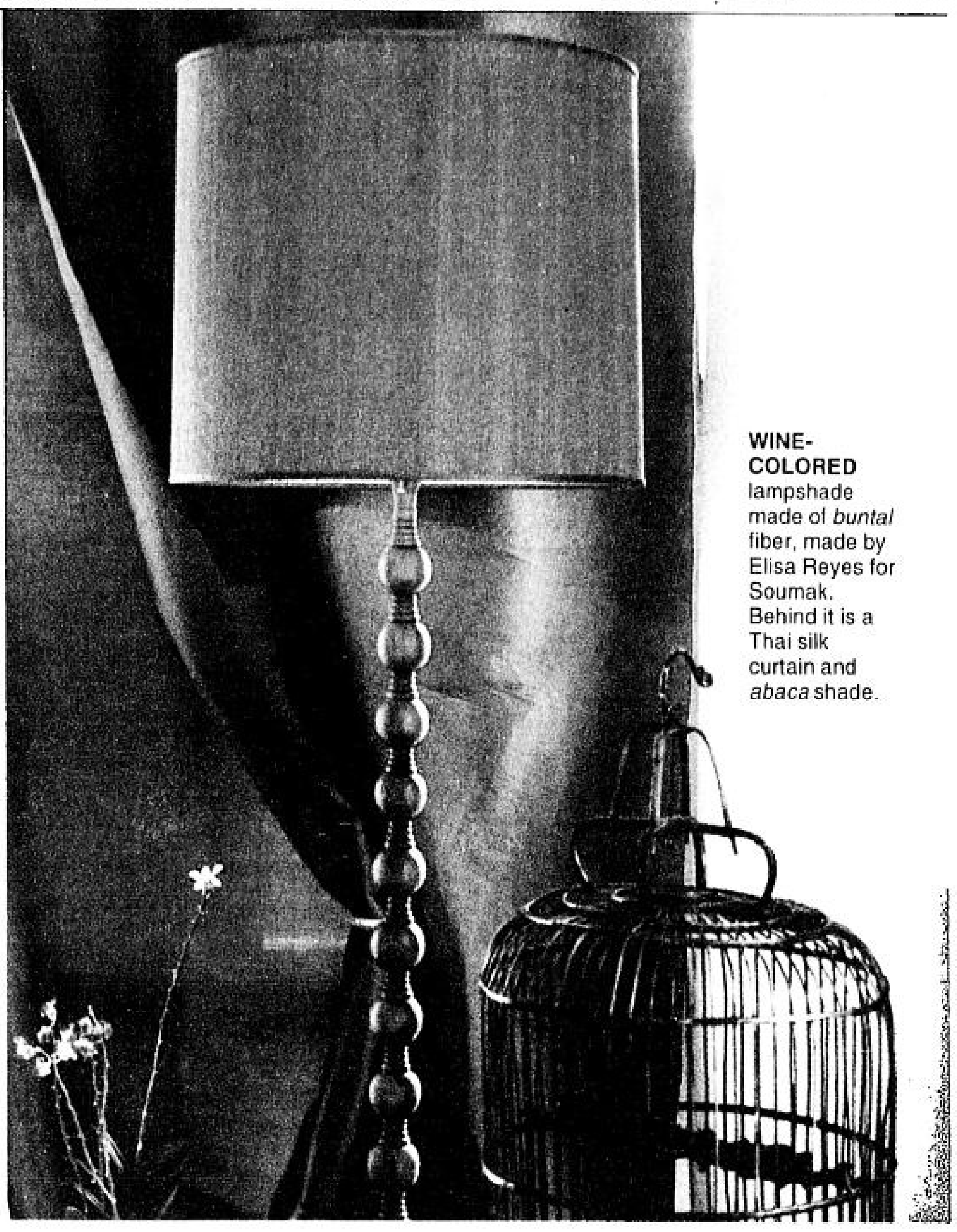


LEOPARD wooden bowl with Soumak's trademark finish atop a rug with jumbo abaca binding pattern



WINE-COLORED lampshade made of *buntal* fiber, made by Elisa Reyes for Soumak. Behind it is a Thai silk curtain and *abaca* shade.

Sorceress of ‘abaca-dabra’

(From page E2)

Yola Johnson has done magical things out of the magic fiber known around the world as ‘Manila hemp’—the underrated ‘abaca’

SORCERESS/ p.E5

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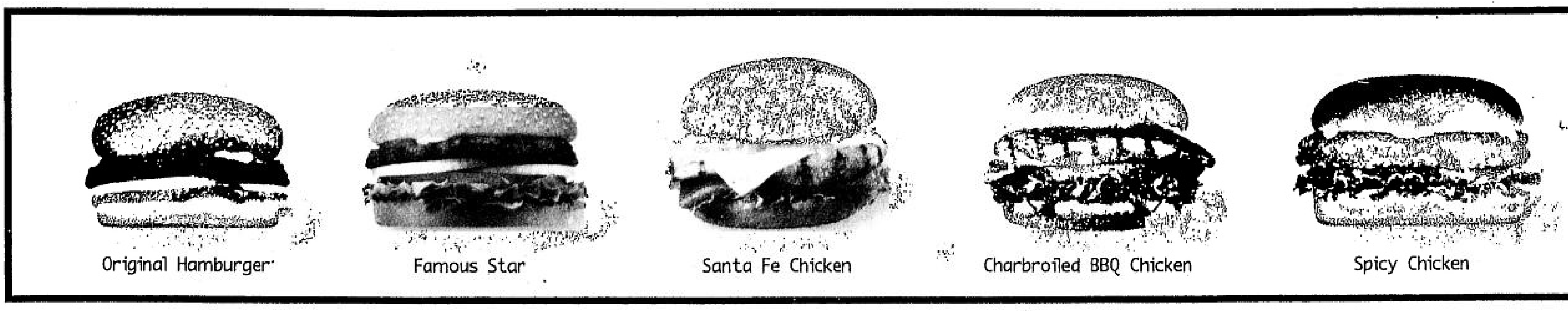

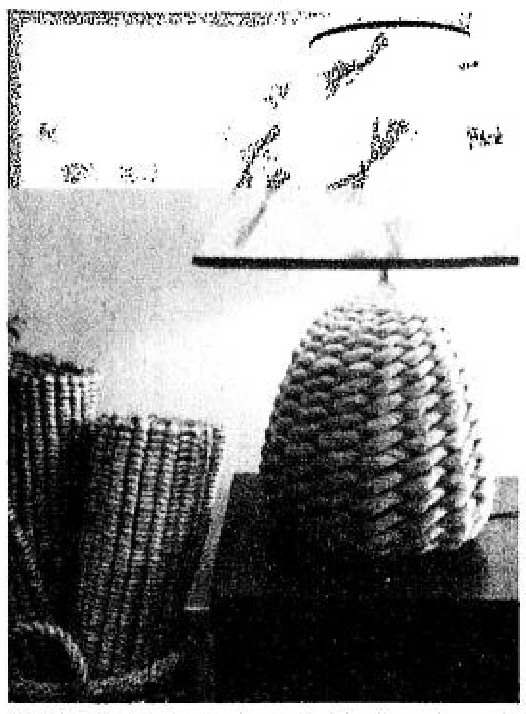

WAYS with hemp and *cogon*. The lamp is made of *cogon* base with *abaca* linen shade on which raffia ribbons are stamped. Rolls of floormats, done in a patended *abaca* mini binding, are placed on the *cogon* hamper.

Sorceress of 'abaca-dabra'

(From page E4)

government and the private sector, she hints.

Yola's Soumak Collections showroom on Metropolitan Avenue and Zapote Street in Makati has giant peanuts in wood set on a giant shell bowl. "It's nice to enlarge things, like the things Alice saw in Wonderland," she says playfully. For her, being an artist means not being afraid to be weird, to "cross the line" separating the known from the unknown.

Creative moments

Her most creative moments come "early, early in the morning," between 3 and 4 a.m. "I just find myself fully awake and things come to my mind." Such things are chests that don't look like chests but spiked, geometric boxes in a design she calls "rickrack." Such things include her best-selling "three-ball candleholder" so named because the metal ring holding the candle has three balls beneath it for support. Such things are the planters, baskets, boxes made out of *nito* in shapes and sizes only Yola's artistic bent and a keen knowledge of her sophisticated clientele can dictate. There are also the *kamagong aparadors* and tables she has designed as a tribute to the beautiful grain of this wood type, incorporating even the natural hairline cracks into design.

If Yola had struggled through the first 10 years after graduation "exhibiting my art" in Kamalig on Taft Avenue, Manila in a stall called Shop 6 along with her UP mentor Robert Chabet, Joe Bautista, Danny Dalena and Alan Rivera, Yola thinks she is still struggling today, as all artists, in her mind, are never finished with their work. That's why she never signs her work. For her, that would mean an end to her creativity. "I might as well be dead," she says.

The Shop 6 artists were "evicted" from the Kamalig stall when art lovers-owners Corito Kalaw and Vida Balboa finally found paying tenants to take their place. Yola packed her stuff and traveled to the provinces "looking for another passion," and that's where she "met" *abaca-dabra*. She studied how to weave and she studied what to do with the fiber. At the Design Center of the Philippines much later, she saw and fell in love with a piece of handwoven fabric exhibited by Elisa Reyes. She sought Elisa out. Today, the two are best of friends and Elisa supplies the special handwoven fabrics made out of *buntal* and *abaca* exclusively to Soumak.

Dreamer

Yola thinks of herself as a dreamer and one of those dreams includes opening up space beside Soumak to give young, struggling artists a venue for their artworks. As an artist herself, she sadly remembers how, in the '70s and '80s, government gave no support to struggling artists, only to the established ones and to foreign art. Once, former first lady Imelda Marcos saw her art and, with arms akimbo, promptly exclaimed, "Oh, it's recycled art," to Yola's utter dismay. Marcos then was known to accumulate curlicued Italian stuff.

If Yola doesn't wear a watch, it's because she knows an artist needs space, both physical and mental, to create. Time and deadlines do matter to this lady, yes, and American husband Patrick sees to that. She is utterly grateful that finally, here's a man who can just let her be, and how.

In celebration of Thanksgiving, Soumak is holding up to Nov. 27 a 20-percent off sale on all its products—stock-size rugs, fabrics, basketware and wooden items, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Yola promises to deliver to your doorstep a free turkey for every P50,000 worth of purchased items.

Soumak is located at 101 Bormaheco Condominium, Metropolitan Avenue corner Zapote Street, Makati; tel. 890-7784/7785, 897-1358, 896-4266, fax 897-1351

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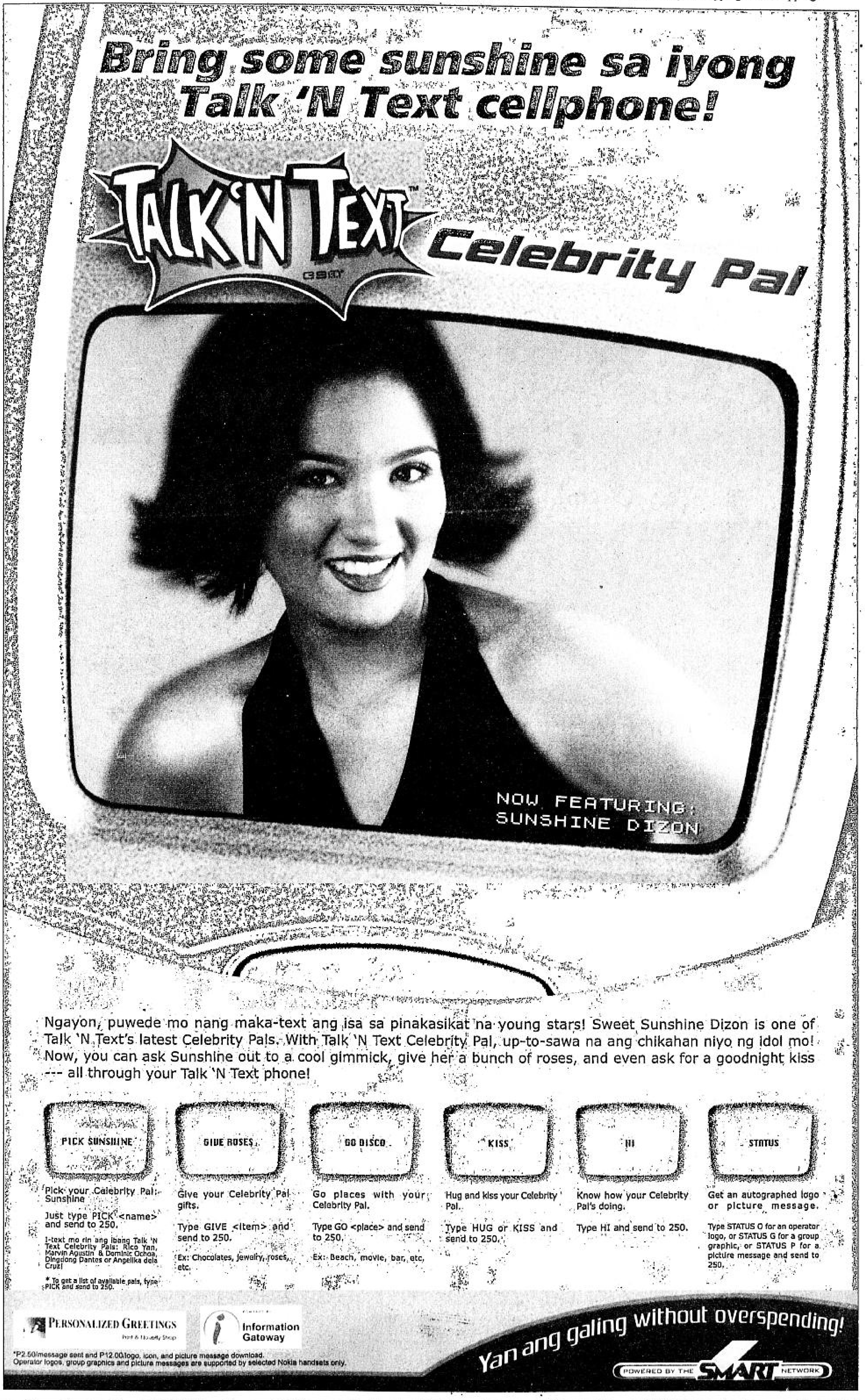

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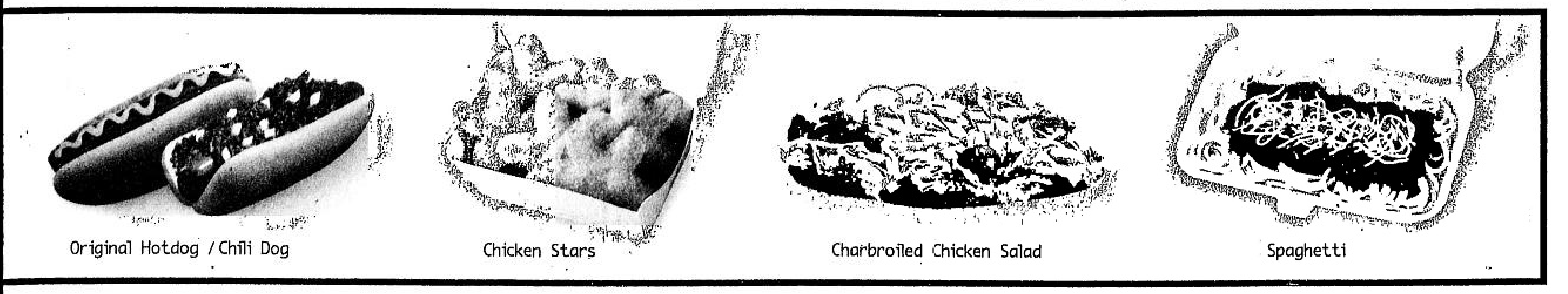
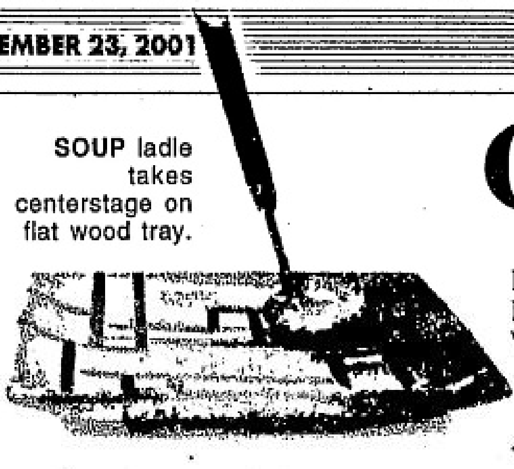




SOUP ladle takes centerstage on flat wood tray.

Celestial houseware

By Doris G. Nuyda
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

A FIRSTHAND knowledge of what housewives want, creative talent honed at UP's College of Fine Arts, and machinery and equipment from the family case goods factory. These are the three principal ingredients that have made Pinky Hilado, wife to real estate businessman Sergio, and mother to Brian, 21, and Timmie, 17, into an entrepreneur and head of her own firm, Celestial Arts, based in Blueridge, QC.

WOODEN square tray with linear design has matching rectangular version. Salad bowl is another matching piece. Stainless salad servers with carabao-horn handles

The household products manufactured by Hilado are mainly of wood and stainless metal (not to be confused with stainless steel), which she often combines for decorative and stylish effects.

She showed us some of these items recently at the Avellana Art Gallery on Fresno Road, Pasay City, run by good friend Albert Avellana. It was a rare occasion since Hilado has no public showroom and only displays her ware twice a year, during Citem (Center for International Trade, Exhibits and Missions) exhibits in April and October, and sometimes for private buyers.

She laid before us a sampling of her products—bowls and trays—and we were immediately struck by their down-home usefulness, since no home is ever without some version of them.

Of course, under Hilado's touch, they are not just ordinary tableware, they become art pieces as well.

There are wooden salad bowls of graduated sizes and flat trays, with matching linear patterns, cube-shaped wooden salt and pepper shakers inlaid with mother-of-pearl, and coasters to match.

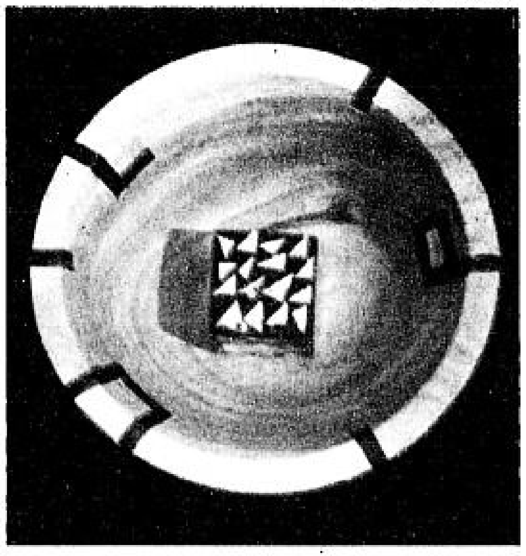
Her stainless tableware—forks, spoons, knives—represent an industry not commonly engaged in by Filipinos. As they are not designed in traditional or conventional patterns, one hopes that in Hilado's hands will be shaped the forerunner of a Filipino brand of dinnerware equivalent to the prestigious and internationally known Rogers silverware.

Among her stainless output are forks and spoons with carabao-horn handles, an idea obviously Filipiniana-inspired. That her ideas and designs click with local and foreign buyers are indicated by the interest generated by visitors to the Citem exhibits and by old customers.

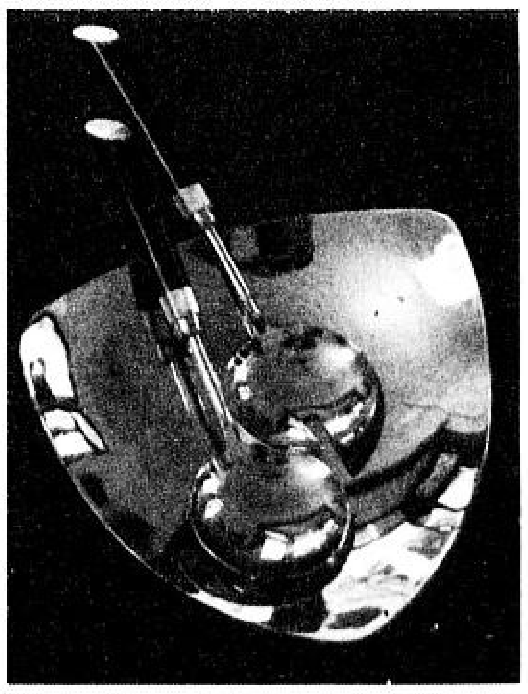
This new venture began when she found that her father's case goods factory was under-utilized and so had lots of room to produce a variety of other items. The discovery bolstered a growing desire to shift from an old business, started in 1993, creating Christmas decor. After four years of a Christmas output, she felt a need to direct her energies to something more practical and more useful the whole year round.

Housewife that she is, her first products naturally veer to the needs of home. To her artist's mind, however, such items need not be drab and

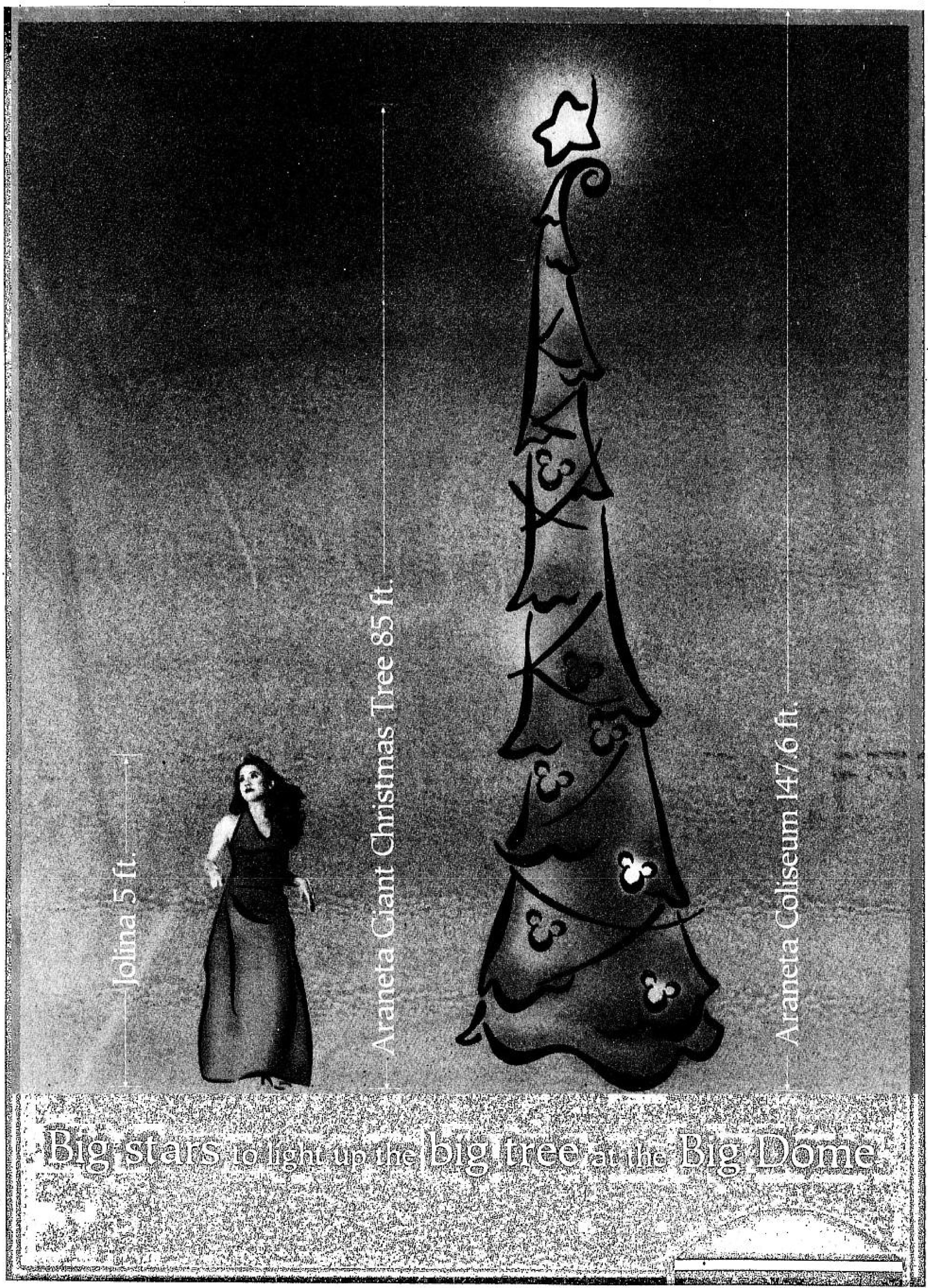
CELESTIAL/p.E8



LONE salt shaker in a wood bowl



TRIANGULAR stainless salad plate on wood base holds salad servers with mother-of-pearl-inlaid wood handles.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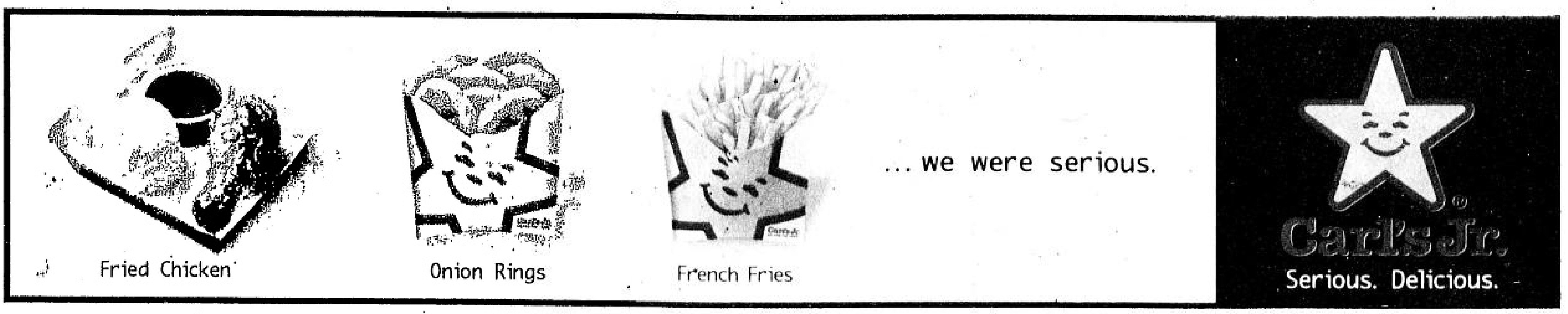
Witness "Ngayong Pasko sa Araneta," highlighted by the annual lighting of the Araneta Center's giant Christmas tree today at 6 p.m. It will be led by Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte. They will be joined by artists from Star Records. The show will also be aired over ABS-CBN channel 2 at 11 a.m. on November 25.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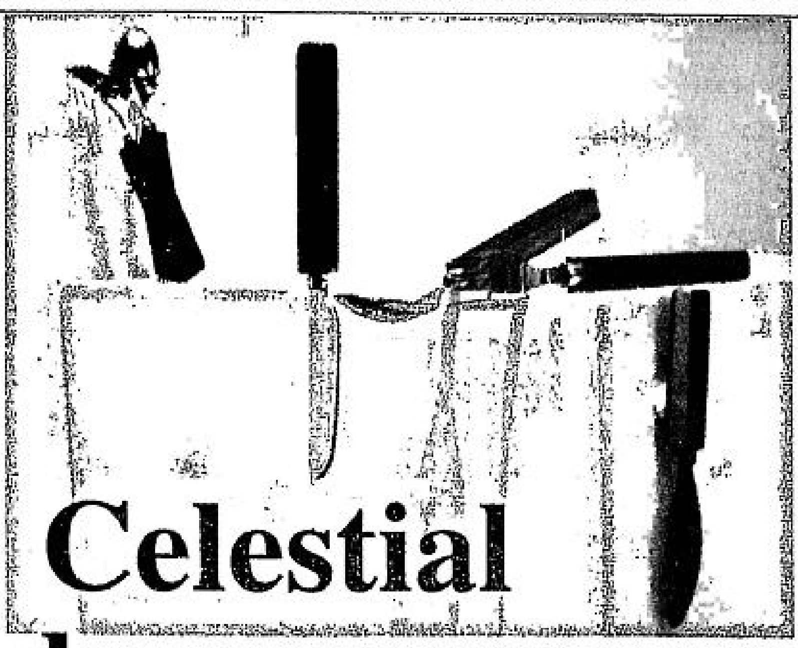
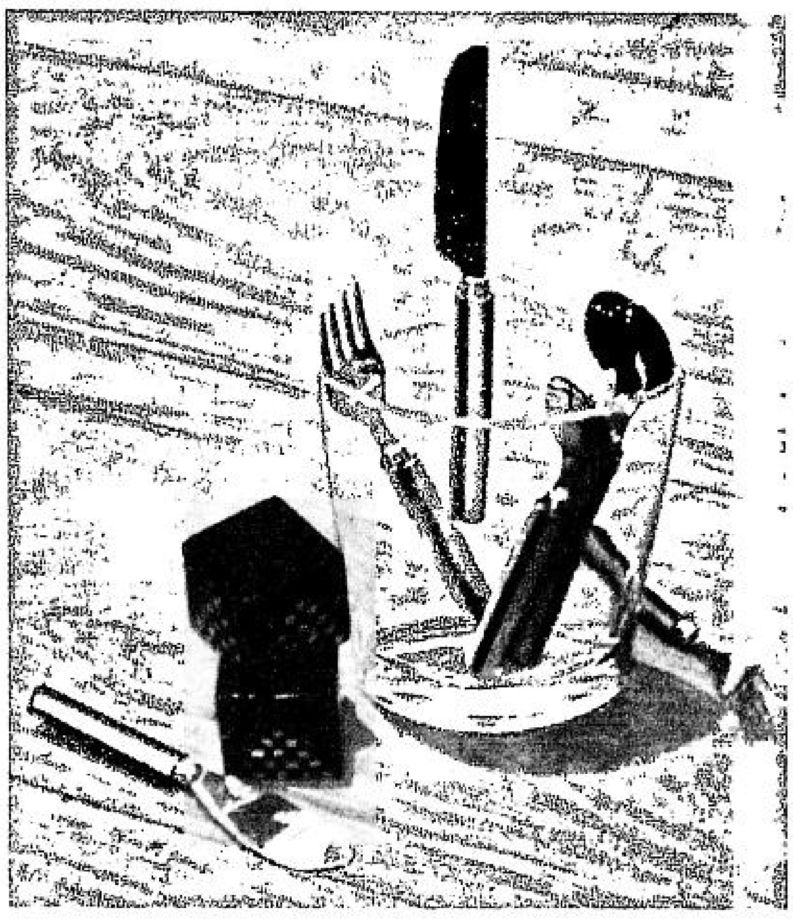
Celestial houseware

Pinky Hilado's wood and stainless metal home usables make something stylish out of utility



SET on a table are stainless salad fork and teaspoon, steak knife dinner spoon and fork, and butter knife.



GLASS holds, from left, stainless dinner fork, knife, dinner spoon, teaspoon. Atop the table are salad fork and butter knife. Cube-shaped salt and pepper shakers also feature mother-of-pearl inlays.

(From page E6)

boring, but enhancers of beauty and excitement to everyday life.

For the present, her raw materials, she says, are obtained from both local and imported sources. While customarily she designs from one material alone, she also likes combining them, as stainless with carabao horn, giving her items a distinct look.

Hilado's tableware is normally sold as a five-piece set for one person, which consists of knife, spoon, fork, teaspoon and salad fork. But the set can be expanded to the customer's specification. It could become a service for 12 or more if, for instance, a customer was in search of a beautiful wedding gift.

For other details about her products, Hilado may be contacted at tel. 647-1110 or through Albert Avellana at his gallery, tel. 522-9793/94.

Rustan's parade on Nov. 25

"CHRISTMAS Carnivale," which will be highlighted by a parade of different characters will happen Nov. 25 at Rustan's Makati.

Gracing the parade are Elmo and Cookie Monster from "Sesame Street." They will be joined by Miffy the white little bunny from Netherlands.

While parents shop kids can enjoy their day as well at the Miffy and Blue's Clues Kiddie Center right inside selected Rustan's branches. And join your choice of character weekend activities at Rustan's Makati for the whole month of December.

GOINGS-ON

LECTURE. The Capiz Medical Society (CMS), with the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology (PSG), will hold a one-day post-graduate course in Basic Gastroenterology Nov. 24 at the Gerry Roxas Convention Center in Roxas City, Capiz. Topics to be discussed include Dyspepsia, Peptic Ulcer Disease, Upper and Lower Gastrointestinal Bleeding and Hepatitis. Fellows of PSG will give the lectures intended for the Family Physicians and Internal Medicine Specialists of the Western Visayas Region. Call (036) 621-5665 or (0917) 312-0096 or email capiz_med_society@eudoramail.com.

PERFORMANCE. World-renowned Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal will perform in Manila Nov. 23-24 at the CCP Main Theater. Call 832-1125 to 3-9 or fax 832-3683.

CAREER MANAGEMENT. Kamal Charafeddine, international admissions director of the Swiss Hotel Association Management school Les Roches, will conduct a series of campus visits and interviews with prospective students, who want to pursue a career in international hotel management Nov. 23-28. Applicants may go to Inter-Ed at the 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. de la Costa, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Call 819-1001/1002 or 818-3040.

ACTIVITY. The annual celebration of Canon Week will be held Nov. 24-30, at the Glorietta, Makati City. Special activities like Canon showcase, photo exhibit and camera clinic will be featured. Call 660-7531/2780 or (0919) 642-2387.

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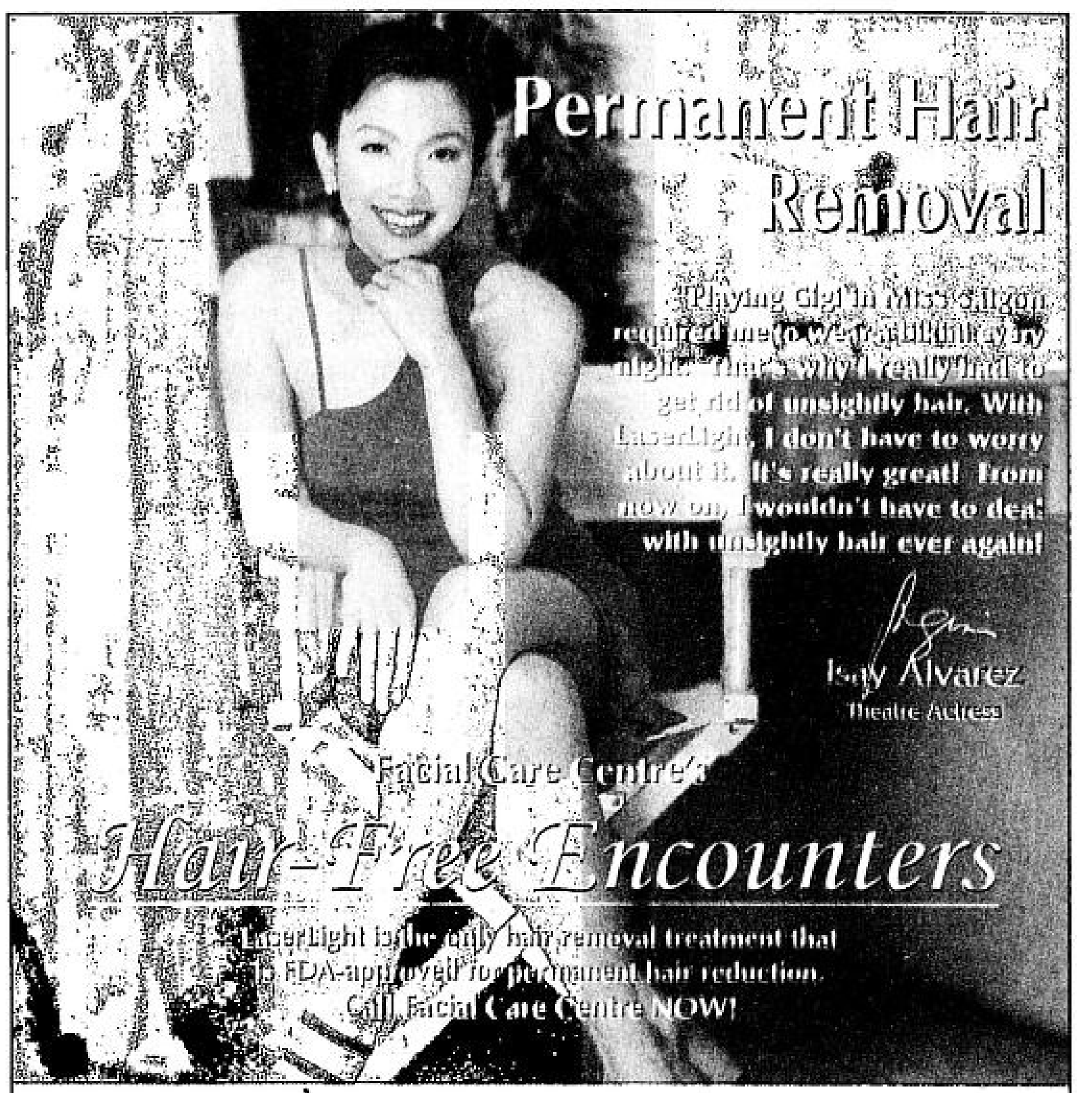

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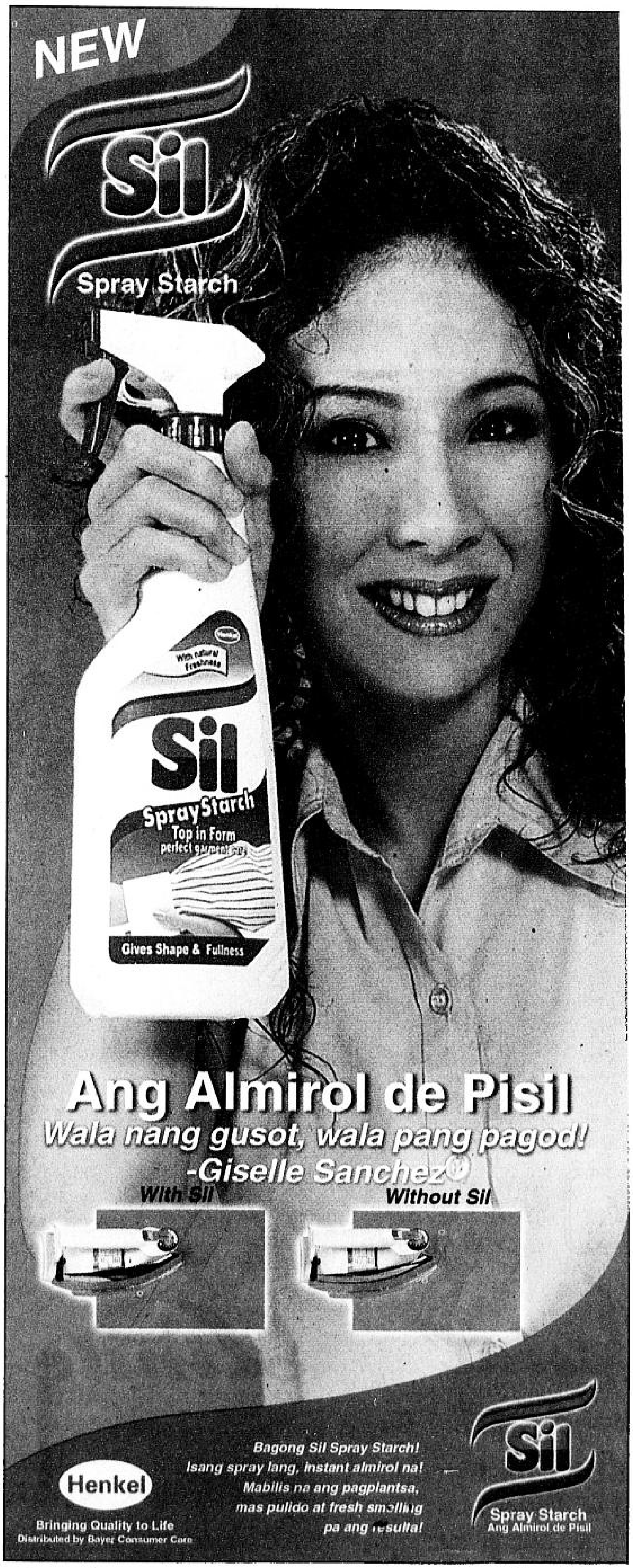

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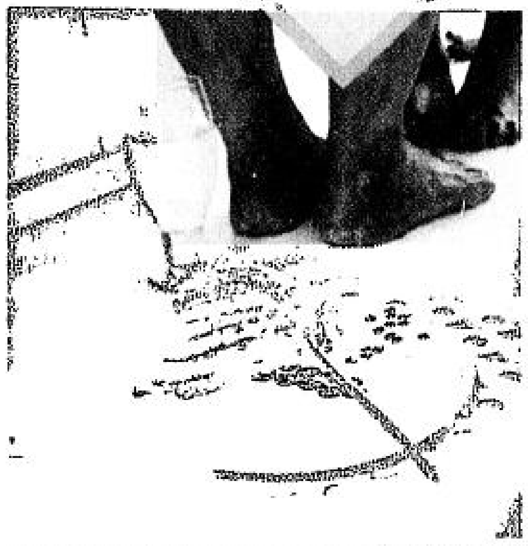


ABSURDITY. Would you eat with someone's feet on the table?

The style road to homespun integrity

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina
Visual concept by Albert Avellana

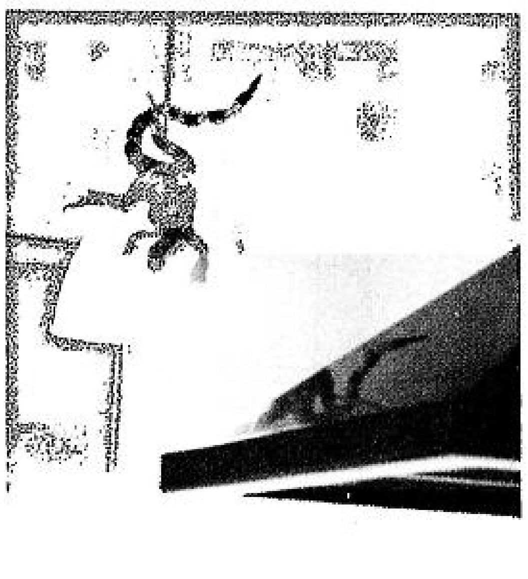
ARTIST Impy Pilapil is at peace with the world, and this state is reflected in her Bel-Air home, particularly in her newly renovated dining room and kitchen. The changes, which had taken more than a year to complete, stemmed from Pilapil's wish to simplify her life, foremost by doing away with clutter. It did help, of course, that the artist also knows her way around the kitchen.

This move toward simplicity has been a gradual process, dating back five years when Pilapil began attending socials less frequently. She eventually found more time for herself. Among those who are reaping the rewards of Pilapil's "choice" is only daughter Isa, 21, a budding painter and fine arts student at the University of the Philippines.

Thanks to a sleek and functional breakfast nook, for instance, mother and daughter can now spend long hours chatting in the kitchen while Pilapil prepares their favorite Italian dishes. She began honing her culinary skills while pursuing art studies at the Academia Italiana for several years. The off-white laminated table with several chic plastic chairs hugs the stainless steel island countertop with a built-in stove and apple green cabinet that stores pots and pans.

"I don't have anything against those parties," Pilapil said. "It just came to a point that I felt the need for more silence. I had more energy when I

THE STYLE/p.F3



A PAPIER mâché iguana, made by Isa Pilapil, adds an unexpected touch to a kitchen area.

THE ABSENCE of wall finishes reflects a minimalist mode. The long wine rack is a clever device. The kitchen is lit by incandescent and fluorescent lights.

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November 23-25, 2001

Kick off the holidays with the first ever Rustan's Grand Christmas Parade! Join Elmo, Cookie Monster, Miffy, Pat the Bunny, Barbie, Santa Claus and the friends of Barney and the Teletubbies as they parade around Glorietta. On Sunday, November 25. Assembly starts at 2:30 pm; the parade, at [illegible] p.m.

Celebrate Barbie Day, with the video premiere of Barbie's Nutcracker movie. Entrance is free when you buy any Sesame Street or Barbie product and accumulate P1,000 worth of Rustan's receipts on the same day. From [illegible] p.m., Saturday, November 24.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1937, Series of 2001.

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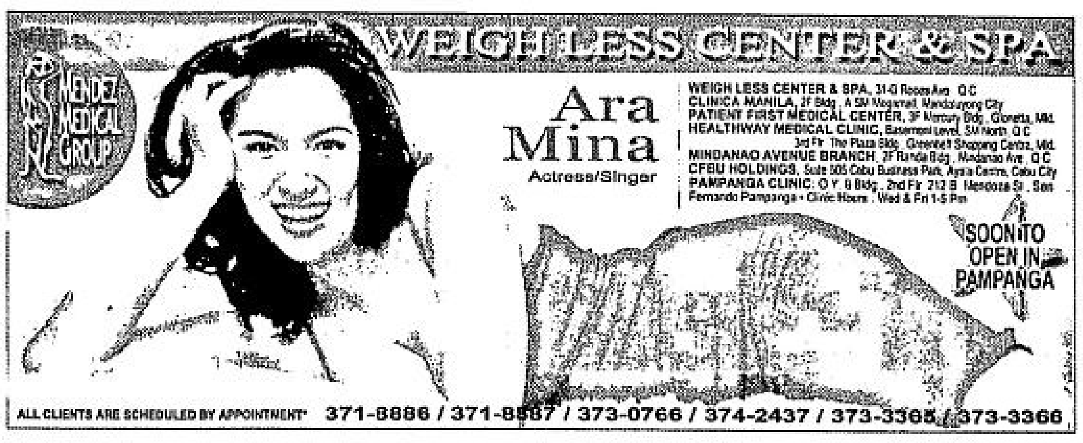

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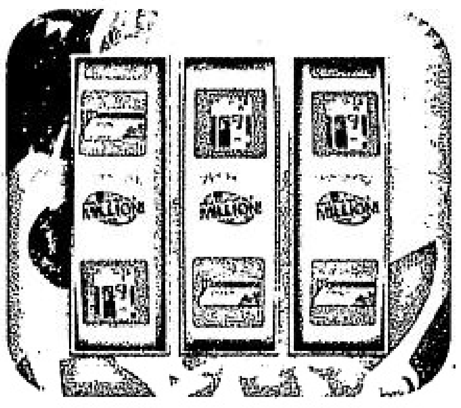

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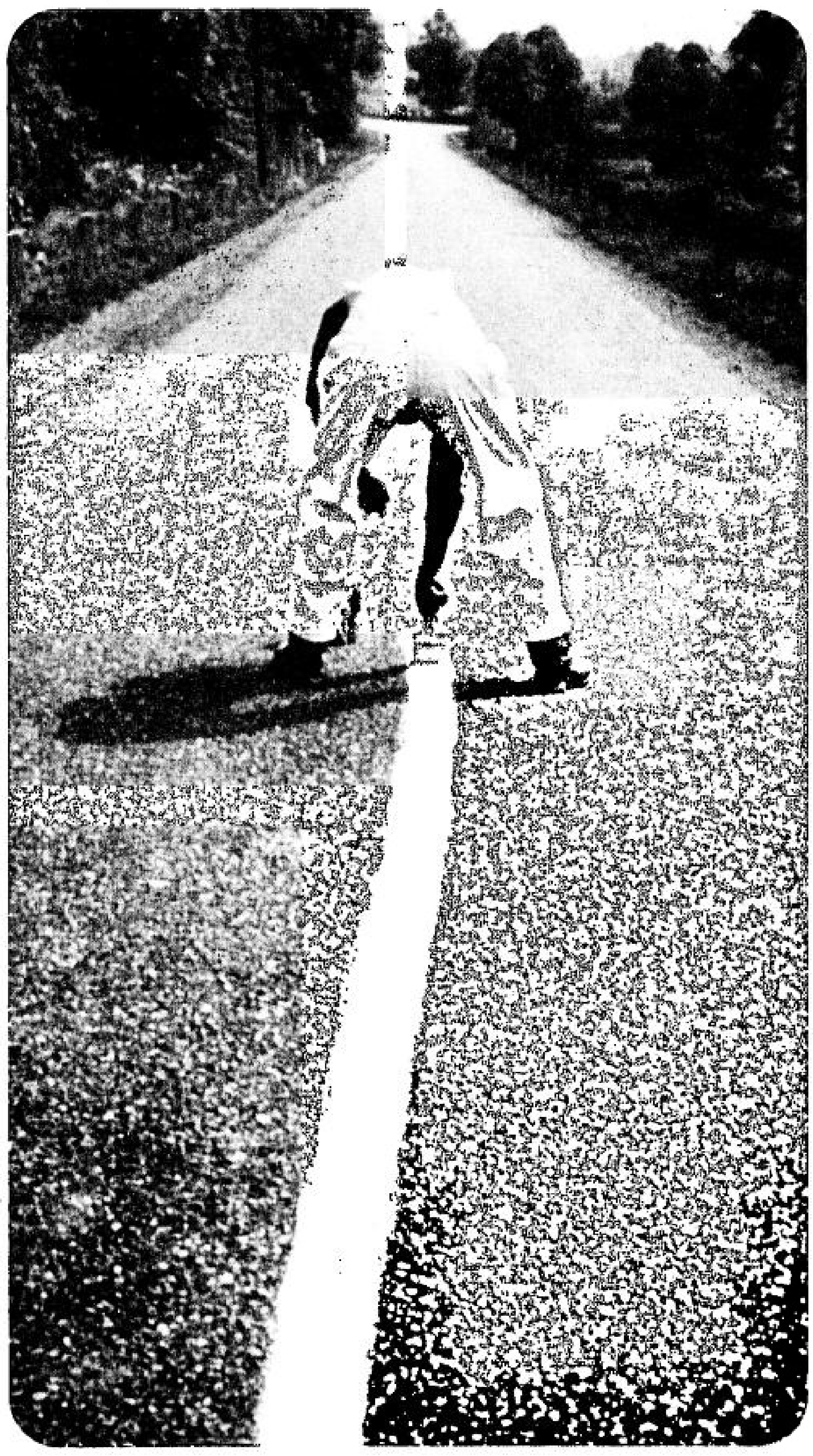
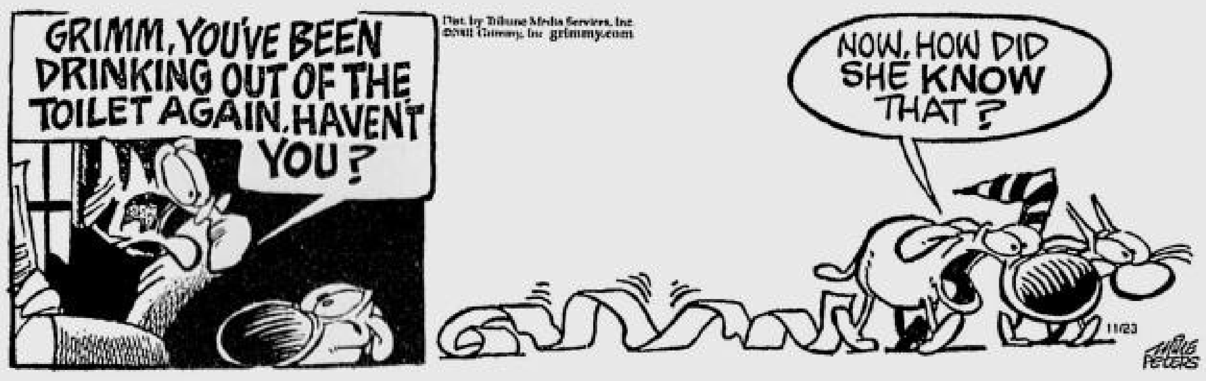
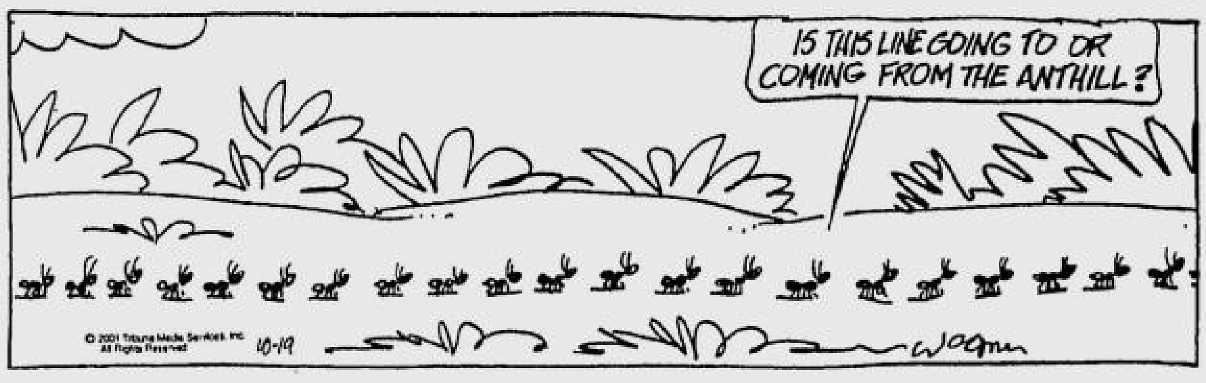
So quit your day job...



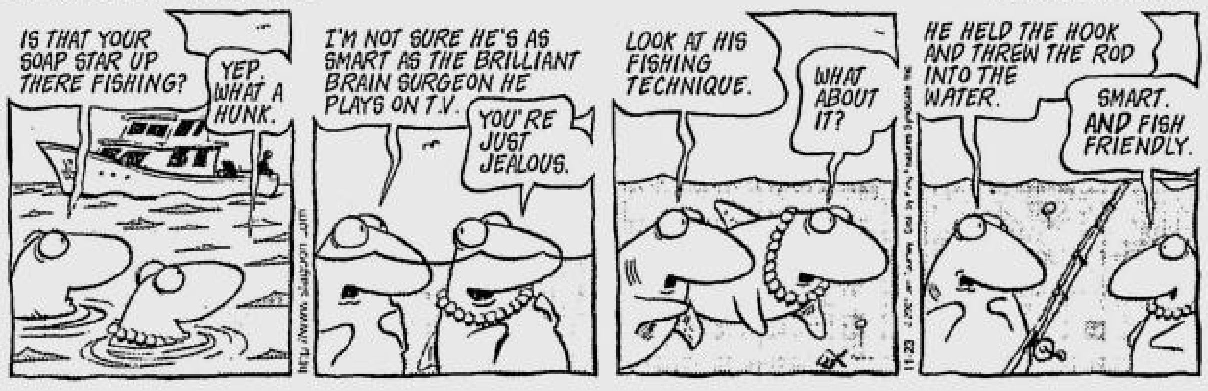
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING OUT OF THE TOILET AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU?
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc ©2001 Grimmy, Inc grimmy.com
NOW, HOW DID SHE KNOW THAT?
11/23
Mike Peters

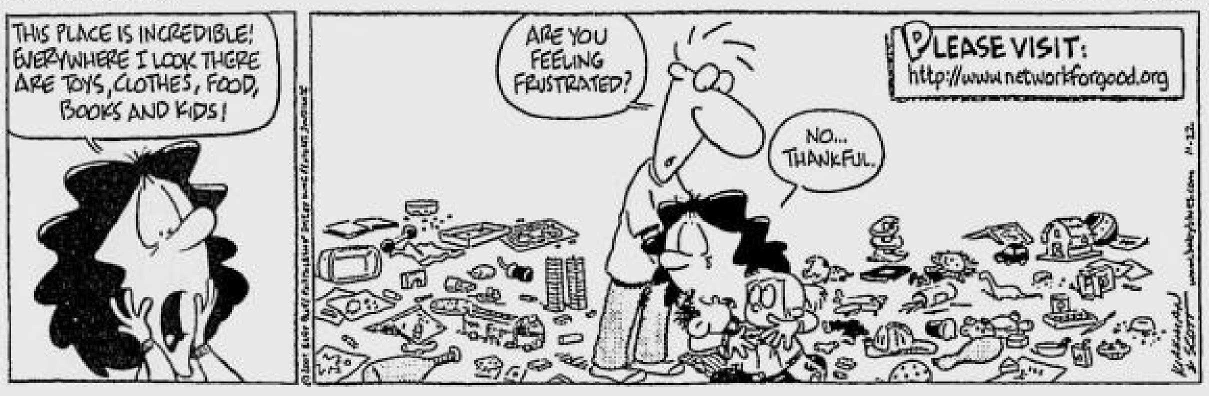
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


IS THIS LINE GOING TO OR COMING FROM THE ANTHILL?
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
10-19
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


IS THAT YOUR SOAP STAR UP THERE FISHING?
YEP. WHAT A HUNK.
I'M NOT SURE HE'S AS SMART AS THE BRILLIANT BRAIN SURGEON HE PLAYS ON T.V.
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS.
LOOK AT HIS FISHING TECHNIQUE.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
HE HELD THE HOOK AND THREW THE ROD INTO THE WATER.
SMART. AND FISH FRIENDLY.
11-23

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


THIS PLACE IS INCREDIBLE! EVERYWHERE I LOOK THERE ARE TOYS, CLOTHES, FOOD, BOOKS AND KIDS!
ARE YOU FEELING FRUSTRATED?
NO... THANKFUL.
PLEASE VISIT: http://www.networkforgood.org
11-22
www.babyblues.com
Kirkman & Scott

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Landesberg, Maxwell Caulfield, Gary Player, Susan Anspach

Happy Birthday: You have been busy assisting everyone else and have forgotten your own needs. Review your goals and motives, eliminate whatever isn't working and start anew. Let yourself be heard and reach out to others with unfiltered truth. Your numbers: 11, 18, 23, 26, 34, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't jeopardize your position by associating with gossiping colleagues. Work hard in order to move up in ranks. Stick to what you do best and you'll shine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Opportunities to move ahead are present, but if you don't take action, you may miss out. Socialize with clients or colleagues as much as possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A residential move may be in order. Check out available property or places to live. Your temper will be short if someone criticizes your efforts. Prepare carefully before presenting your findings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Consider travel opportunities or seminars where you will meet new friends and associates. This is also a perfect way to broaden your views.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's time to stop slacking and get moving. Sports, physical fitness programs and other exercise will make you feel better and show quick results. You will feel so much better about yourself if you strengthen your mind, body and soul.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't worry too much about the squawking. Don't make waves yourself and avoid other people's turmoil. Offer a few kind words and be on your merry way. You may want to plan a vacation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't leave any room for error. Do your job well and avoid any problems with coworkers. Don't let your personal feelings interfere with your productivity or your efficiency. If you let things get to you, minor health issues may occur.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Opportunities to make new friends may result in a new romantic connection. You will enjoy socializing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't expect everything to run smoothly today. Expect to face opposition but don't let it stop you in your tracks. Deal with any pending problem and get on with your day. Stay calm; the danger of minor accidents will increase with the turmoil.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to consider getting away for a few days. Make your plans early and don't let anyone dissuade you.

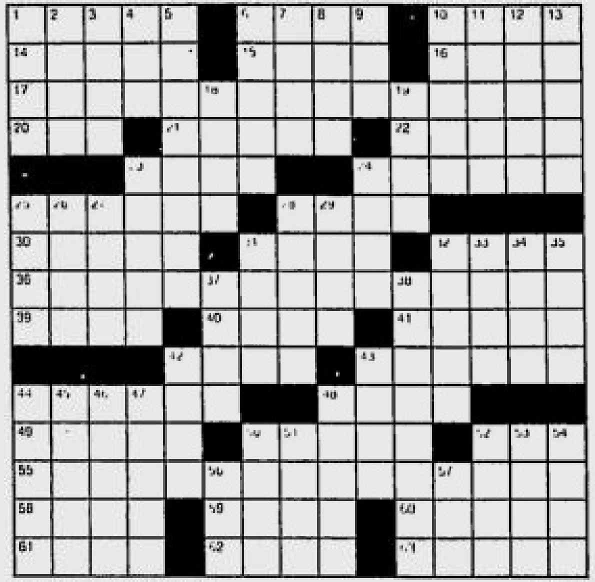
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make a game plan to improve your present situation. Financial difficulties can be resolved with a strict budget. Talk to an expert about consolidating your debts and take on a part-time job.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Think before you react. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Being emotional won't solve your problems. Physical activities will help you avoid confrontations and feel better.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, loving and intuitive. You have a strong sense of justice and will always look out for the underdog.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Randall J. Hartman
Escondido, CA

10/9/01

ACROSS
1 Capital on the Willamette
6 Wagers
10 Tibetan teacher
14 Sports venue
15 Lamb's pen name
16 Lupino and Tarbell
17 Satisfaction from one's possessions
20 Golfer Ernie
21 Machu Picchu builders
22 Spooky
23 Baroque master
24 Brothers of Hollywood
25 Oration
28 Spades or clubs
30 God of Islam
31 Ear that can't hear?
32 Synagogue
36 Cultural foundation
39 Checked out
40 Greek letter
41 Bay window
42 Madcap
43 Reluctant
44 Resentful
48 Home of Iowa State
49 Foreigner
50 Poe's middle name
52 Estuary
55 Strike of a storm
58 At any time
59 Fragrant bloom
60 Lace up again
61 Antitoxins
62 Calendar length
63 "The Shadowy Waters" poet

DOWN
1 Identical
2 Asian sea
3 Permits to
4 Wind dir.
5 Baja band
6 Sandy shore
7 Scat queen Fitzgerald
8 Muscle spasms
9 Portuguese saint
10 Prisoner forever
11 Decorate
12 Madame Curie
13 Fall blossom
18 1/36 of a yard
19 Pithy part
23 Stubble
24 Sot
25 Vault
26 Flexability
27 Dresden's river
28 Easy mark
29 Bear constellation
31 "Fargo" producer
32 Fathers
33 VIP in a will
34 Colorado tribe
35 Singer Lovett
37 Russian ruler
38 Godiva's hometown
42 Original Stoic
43 Nanking nanny
44 "__ in Toyland"
45 Hit by Tom T. Hall
46 Masonic doorkeeper
47 Aquarium fish
48 "Ragged Dick" author
50 __ vera
51 "Mona __"
52 Beatles' meter maid
53 Any part of JFK
54 Drawn out periods
56 Young fish
57 Born in Brest

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	E	T	R	O	■	S	L	O	T	S	■	A	V	A
C	R	E	A	M	■	P	A	T	S	Y	■	F	A	B
A	R	C	H	E	N	E	M	I	E	S	■	F	L	Y
■	■	■	■	L	U	C	A	S	■	T	A	L	U	S
T	A	R	G	E	T	S	■	■	B	E	L	I	E	S
A	G	E	N	T	S	■	A	T	O	M	I	C	■	■
B	O	G	U	S	■	B	R	A	S	S	■	T	A	D
O	N	U	S	■	B	E	E	C	H	■	T	I	L	E
O	Y	L	■	P	I	A	N	O	■	P	H	O	B	E
■	■	A	U	R	O	R	A	■	G	A	I	N	E	D
T	O	R	S	O	S	■	■	T	R	U	S	S	E	S
R	A	G	A	S	■	E	M	A	I	L	■	■	■	■
A	S	U	■	P	E	D	A	L	D	I	G	I	T	S
D	E	Y	■	E	L	I	D	E	■	N	A	D	I	A
E	S	S	■	R	I	T	E	S	■	G	L	A	N	D

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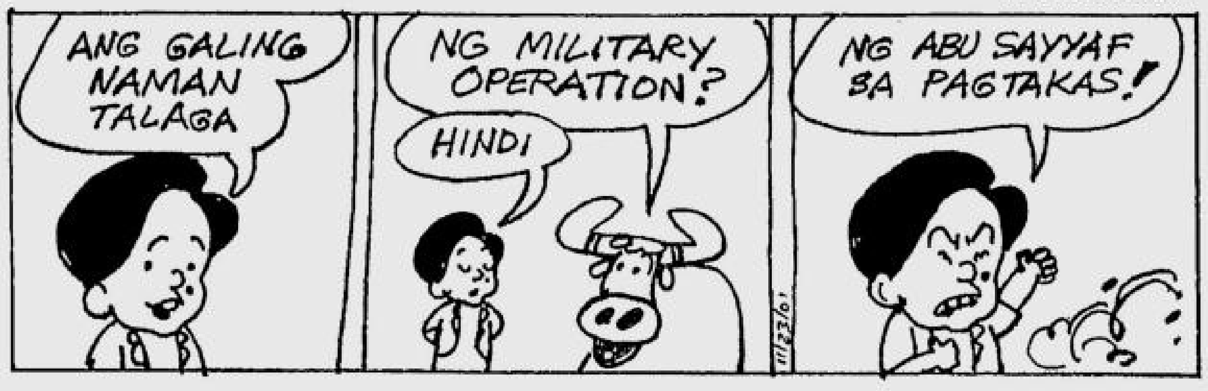
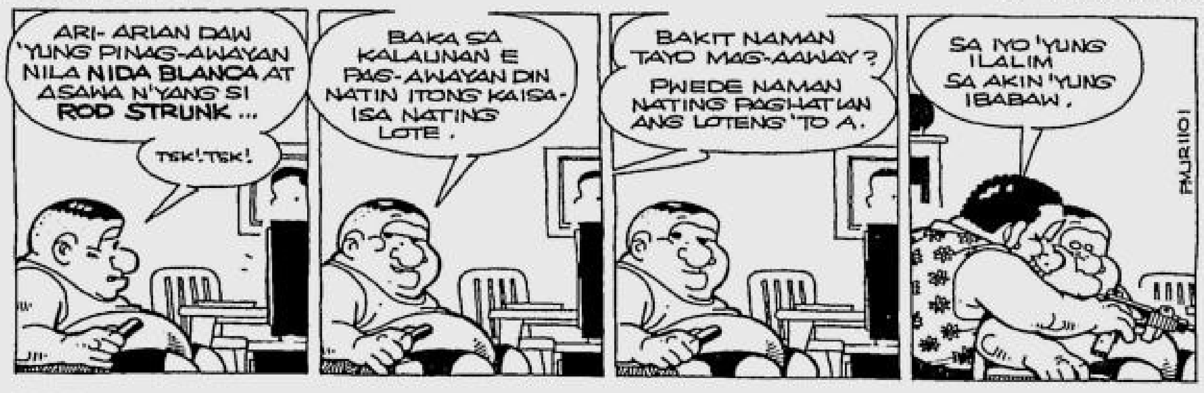
10/8/01

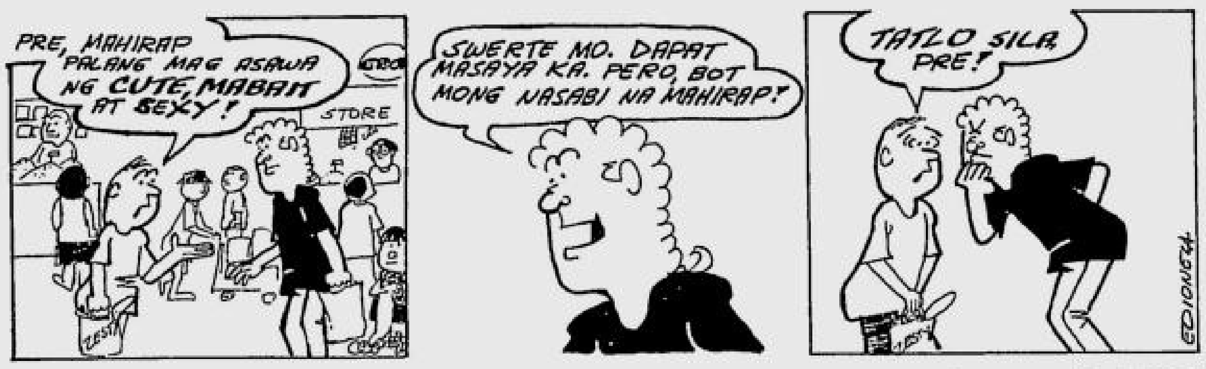
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG GALING NAMAN TALAGA
NG MILITARY OPERATION?
HINDI
11/23/01
NG ABU SAYYAF SA PAGTAKAS!

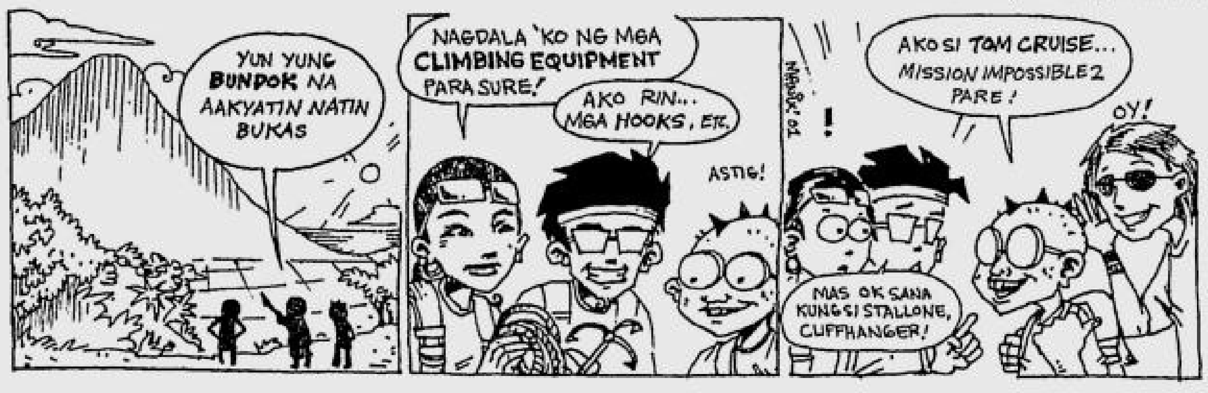
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ARI-ARIAN DAW 'YUNG PINAG-AAWAYAN NILA NIDA BLANCA AT ASAWA N'YANG SI ROD STRUNK...
TSK! TSK!
BAKA SA KALAUNAN E PAG-AAWAYAN DIN NATIN ITONG KAISA-ISA NATING LOTE.
BAKIT NAMAN TAYO MAG-AAWAY? PWEDE NAMAN NATING PAGHATIAN ANG LOTENG 'TO A.
SA IYO 'YUNG ILALIM SA AKIN 'YUNG IBABAW.
PMJR1101

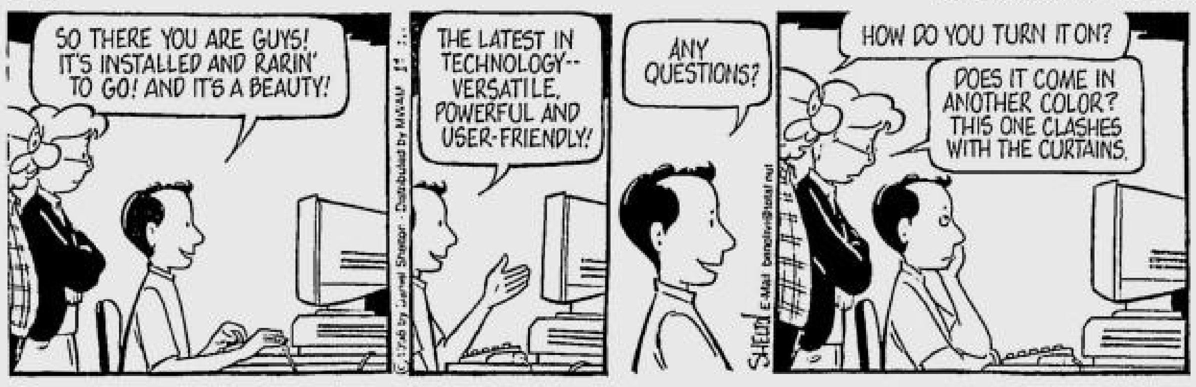
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


PRE, MAHIRAP PALANG MAG ASAWA NG CUTE, MABAIT AT SEXY!
STORE
SWERTE MO. DAPAT MASAYA KA. PERO, BAT MONG NASABI NA MAHIRAP?
TATLO SILA PRE!
EDIONELA

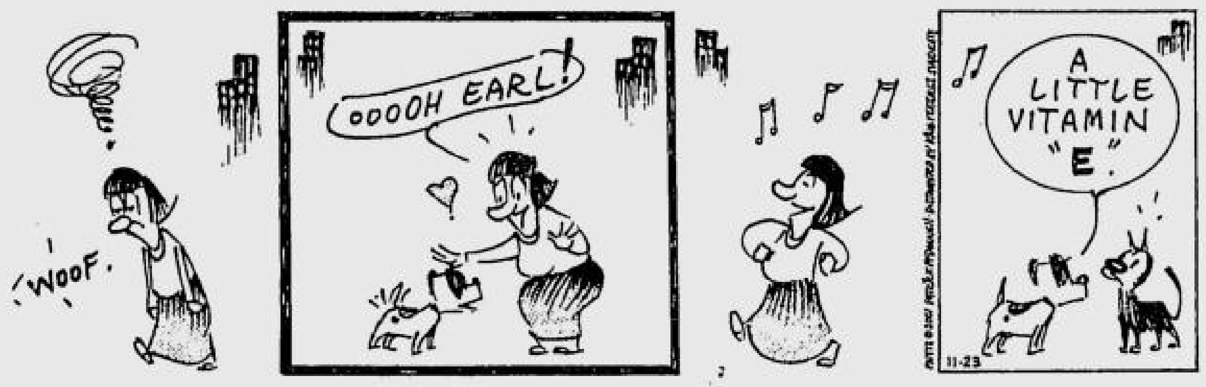
GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


YUN YUNG BUNDOK NA AAKYATIN NATIN BUKAS
NAGDALA 'KO NG MGA CLIMBING EQUIPMENT PARA SURE!
AKO RIN... MGA HOOKS, ETC.
ASTIG!
!
AKO SI TOM CRUISE... MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 2 PARE!
OY!
MAS OK SANA KUNG SI STALLONE, CLIFFHANGER!

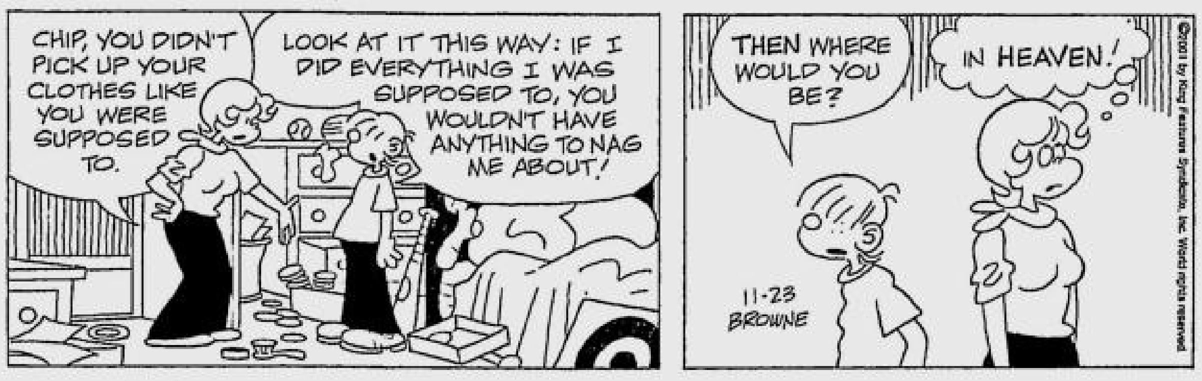
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO THERE YOU ARE GUYS! IT'S INSTALLED AND RARIN' TO GO! AND IT'S A BEAUTY!
THE LATEST IN TECHNOLOGY-- VERSATILE, POWERFUL AND USER-FRIENDLY!
ANY QUESTIONS?
HOW DO YOU TURN IT ON?
DOES IT COME IN ANOTHER COLOR? THIS ONE CLASHES WITH THE CURTAINS.
SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOOF.
OOOOH EARL!
A LITTLE VITAMIN "E".
11-23

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CHIP, YOU DIDN'T PICK UP YOUR CLOTHES LIKE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO.
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY: IF I DID EVERYTHING I WAS SUPPOSED TO, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO NAG ME ABOUT!
THEN WHERE WOULD YOU BE?
IN HEAVEN!
11-23
BROWNE
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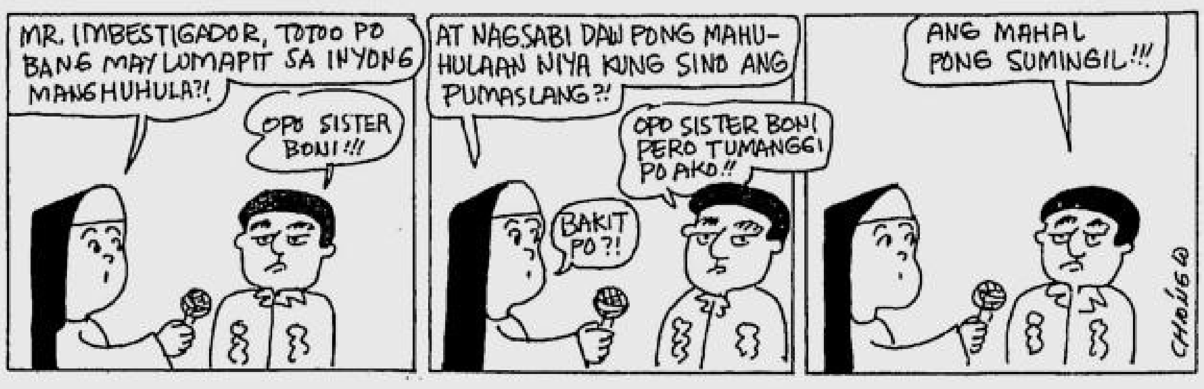
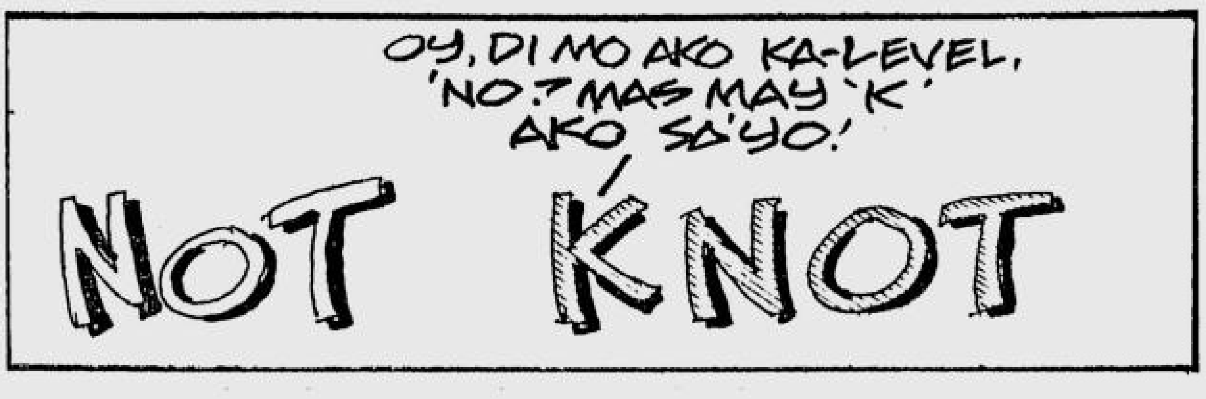
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MR. IMBESTIGADOR, TOTOO PO BANG MAY LUMAPIT SA INYONG MANGHUHULA?!
OPO SISTER BONI!!!
AT NAGSABI DAW PONG MAHUHULAAN NIYA KUNG SINO ANG PUMASLANG?!
BAKIT PO?!
OPO SISTER BONI PERO TUMANGGI PO AKO!!
ANG MAHAL PONG SUMINGIL!!!
CHIONG

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, DI MO AKO KA-LEVEL, 'NO? MAS MAY 'K' AKO SA'YO!
NOT
KNOT

In a bid to unclutter her life, artist Impy Pilapil reworks her dining room and kitchen and comes up with a testament to simplicity

ARTIST'S choices—oil and vinegar bottles shaped like a helix, a plastic spherical peppermill and rubber knives.

The style road to homespun integrity

(From page F1)

PILAPIL'S artistic bohemian side is shown in these life-size resin statues with glass buoy heads by Gerry Leonardo that stand on the counter.

THESTYLE/p.F4

CPAC Monier Roof Tiles
The world's
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is now transforming
the Philippine Roofscape.

Ferndale Homes
Dillman, Quezon City

CPAC Monier roof tiles are the world's roofing product of choice in Europe, Canada, South Africa, USA and Asia. Now in the Philippines, more and more people are discovering CPAC Monier as the best roofing system for residential and commercial applications.

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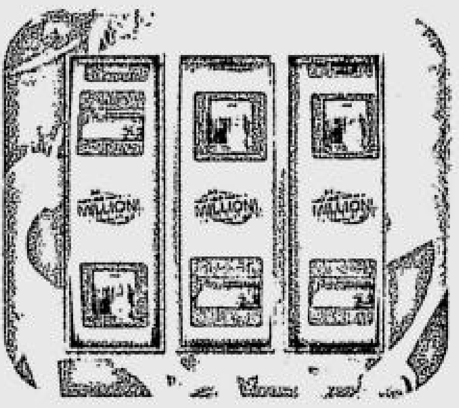
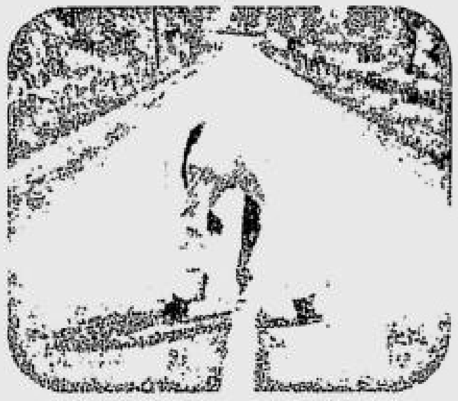
Fax No. : 813-1704 • E-mail : cpacmktg@mozcom.com
Website : www.cpac-monier.com

A joint venture company between
LAFARGE and The Siam Cement Group





...but not just yet.

Things are heating up. HP is proud to announce the second batch of winners for our **Print Your Way to a Million** promo. Congratulations!

WINNERS OF P50,000.00

GMA / LUZON
Rodolfo B. Salamat
Raquel L. Cedeño
Evangeline B. Perez

VISAYAS / MINDANAO
Mary Ann Cosep
Chito M. Arrojado

SPECIAL PRIZE WINNERS

WINNERS OF
Jornada
Nokia 6210
HP CD Writer

GMA / LUZON
Ramil A. Espino
Lope E. Dapun
Bernardo A. Rejano

VISAYAS / MINDANAO
Ernesto Mahinay
Jonathan B. Din
Dr. Victor Dumangas

WINNERS OF HP CALCULATORS

GMA / LUZON
Evelyn Quing
Jesus Aquino
Ernesto Vallejo
Melisa S. Sinaon
Jonathan M. Beloy
Ludivina B. Bumatay
Bea Padua
George F. Cunanan
Irene Ruth F. Barba
Nerissa L. Santiago
Maria Luisa Q. Saban
Reynaldo SJ. Bartolome
Gina F. Picones
Kathryn Solidum
Emmalyne Joy Alviar
Bienvenido S. Pineda
Catherine A. Colle
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Maria Lisa L. Contreras
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Helen Guido

VISAYAS / MINDANAO
Esmeralda M. Cero
Virginia B. Raffiñan
Carissa Marie E. Chiu
Charito T. Caballes
Dennis L. Tunay
Julieta L. Labis
Juanita C. Omale
Fabiana A. Abuzo
Rodolfo O. Aglipa Jr.
Feli Mahani
Alex A. Quirao
Fe E. Velasquez
Rumarheveson D. Bacal
Maria Theresa B. Ebuna
Meldrid A. Egote

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See posters and flyers for details.

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Per DTI NCR Permit No 1309, Series of 2001

The style road to homespun integrity

(From page F3)

was younger, but I became more focused about my own being as I matured."

Usable kitchen

The old kitchen, although equally as big, wasn't as functional. It was catered to the house's previous owners, leaving Pilapil with very little room to maneuver. Since she has chosen to make the kitchen her other sanctuary, the renowned sculptor of stone and glass made sure that form also followed function. She opted, for instance, to use no-nonsense warehouse lighting, noticeably daylight for the high-traffic sink area. Pilapil saved the soft glow of yellow light for the other side of the kitchen.

"We women prefer to bask under the yellow light because it's kinder to our skins," she said. "White light, however, is better if you're preparing dinner. You certainly don't want to miss any impurities in the ingredients."

Floor and wall tiles in immaculate white brighten up the kitchen. Aside from their bigger size, the wall tiles have ripples that set them apart from ordinary bathroom tiles. Floor tiles, also made of ceramic, are smooth and low-maintenance as well.

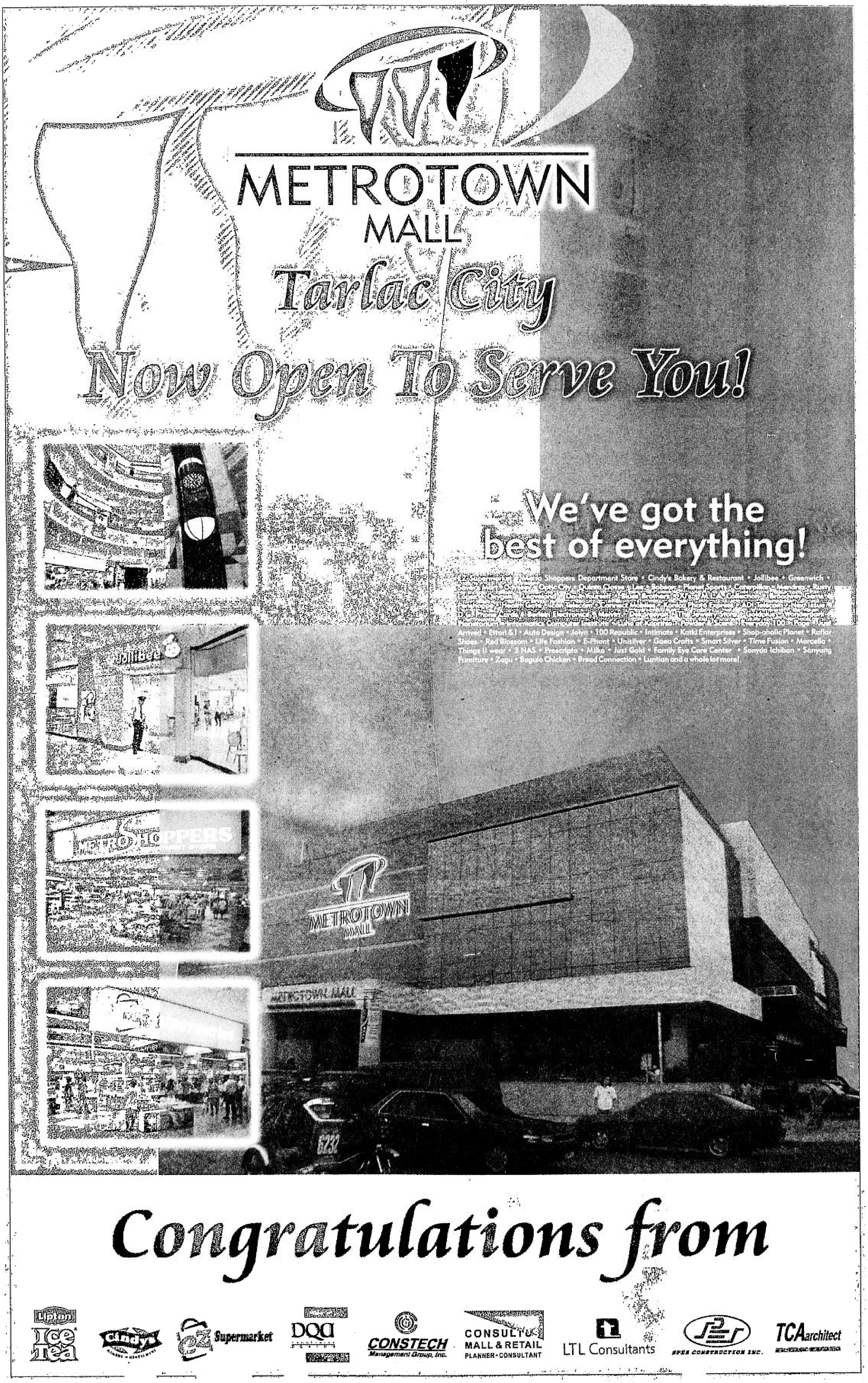
Instead of overhead cabinets, Pilapil chose apple green drawers that glide smoothly to store kitchen essentials. But why apple green? "It looks fresh," she said. Laminated countertops match the color of the table. A section of the built-in cabinet done in opaque glass breaks the monotony as well as gives Pilapil an idea of what its contents are.

The same scheme is repeated in the sink area and on the opposite side of the wall where an integrated oven, pantry and refrigerator is located. While both oven and fridge are clad in apple green metal, the pantry comes with opaque swinging doors. Each cabinet and drawer is paired with a set of stainless steel handles.

Wine rack

If not for the long, shelf-cum-wine rack also made from stainless steel, the wall opposite the sink would have been bare. Not a few of her friends have advised her to tilt the wine bottles to

THE STYLE/p.F7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Tarlac City
Now Open To Serve You!
We've got the best of everything!
Shoppers Department Store • Cindy's Bakery & Restaurant • Jollibee • Greenwich •
Arrived • Ettori & I • Auto Design • Jolyn • 100 Republic • Intimate • Katki Enterprises • Shop-aholic Planet • Raflor Shoes • Red Blossom • Life Fashion • E-Phant • Unisilver • Gaea Crafts • Smart Silver • Time Fusion • Marcello • Things II wear • 3 NAS • Prescripto • Milko • Just Gold • Family Eye Care Center • Sonyda Ichiban • Sanyang Furniture • Zagu • Baguio Chicken • Bread Connection • Luntian and a whole lot more!
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Congratulations from
Lipton Ice Tea
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DQA
CONSTECH Management Group, Inc.
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LTL Consultants
SPES CONSTRUCTION INC.
TCA architect

Christmas crèches

By Doris G. Nuyda

THE SPIRIT of the Christmas season was colorfully and artfully expressed in an exhibit aptly called "Belen! Belen!," of exquisite crèches (Nativity scenes) that runs until Nov. 27 (with possible extension). The 20 or so *belens* displayed at the 3/L Shangri-La Plaza Edsa were actually creations of some of the country's top artists and designers, and consist, for the most part, of paintings, tableaux, dioramas and sculpture done in different mediums—marble, crystals, glass, metal, ceramics, stone, often by each alone, other times in combinations.

The exhibit was sponsored by the Baile Foundation composed of pioneering members of the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company and the Shangri-La Plaza. Proceeds of the exhibit/sale will go to the Foundation's new project, the Saliksik Awards 2002, which is a search for young researchers who come up with works in compliance with Baile's aims.

The lineup of participating artists include National Artist Napoleon Abueva whose Baby Jesus is cast in bronze on molded fiberglass. Ugu Bigyan sculpted the Holy Family in glazed and unglazed ceramics. Ramon Orlina sculpted the holy figures in Swarovski crystals. Impy Pilapil (with Lily The) created a contemporary *belen* using gold-leafed hardwood as base for crystal figures of the Holy Family, surrounded by golden branches aglitter with crystal balls. Similarly, Claude Tayag used Philippine hardwood to sculpt his curvilinear *belen*.

Baidy Mendoza, who works with terra cotta, designed a conical candleholder and a slab-shaped tree, hung with biblical symbols to carry out the theme.

Gabby Barredo utilized his expertise in kinetic art to create moveable, electrically activated metal branches framing a picture of Mother and Child. Rafael del Casal painted a diptych of dancing angels in Filipino costumes. Lanelle Abueva contributed stoneware ceramic platters as backdrop for the Holy Family.

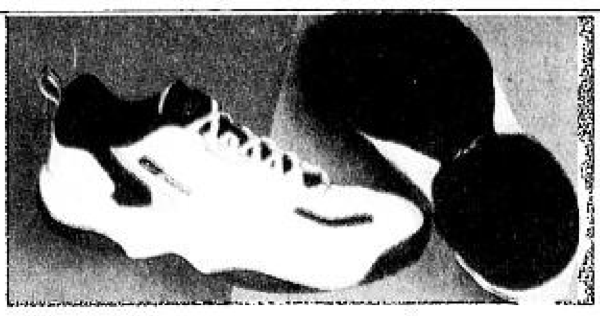
The work of interior designers Johnny Hubilla, Edith Oliveros, Manny Castro and Leo Almeria each stand out in their innovative renditions of the *belen*, Hubilla through stained glass; Oliveros, through her depiction of a Filipino Christmas in a *barong barong*; and Almeria through woodstone and marble figures and plates.

Antique collector Ramon Villegas presented a 19th-century *belen* from Pangasinan, while Tony Aquino and Benny Liwanag of Collect and Cherish put together a table-wide tableau of a traditional European Nativity Scene complete with Roman columns.

Jose Luis "Jojo" Mapa and his sister Carmina Mapa del Rosario were inspired to create a crèche by a poem, "Points East" by Mary Lambert. The crèche is encased in the upper section of a cabinet with a mirror at the back.

There was prevalent use of cabinets, plates and boxes to frame the crèches. The artists and designers must have felt the need for such structures to symbolize the cave of the Nativity, using the shape of the marble slab or plate to define the closeness of the Holy Family.

For more details on the Saliksik Awards and the Baile Foundation, e-mail bailefoundation-@hotmail.com or call 725-3955.



Right shoes for bigger dreams

ARE you ready to test your limits, expand your goals and take your body to levels it has not yet reached? Get a Reebok training gear to help you.

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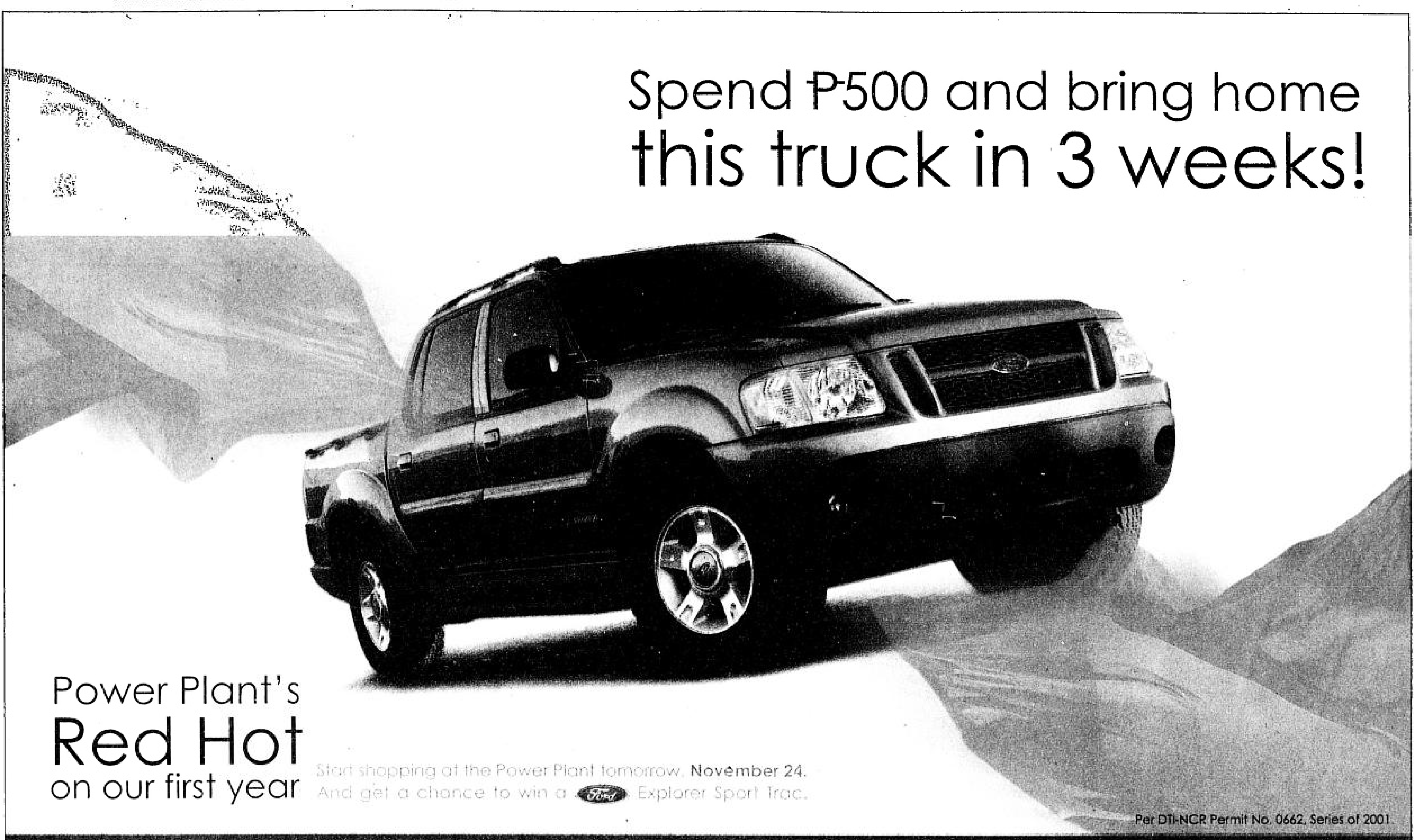
The shoes can go from run to jump to sprint without skipping a beat. A breathable mesh tongue and soft-padded linings assure internal comfort during any activity. The high-abrasion rubber outsoles have exceptional traction and durability on any playing surface. Available in styles for men and women at all authorized Reebok outlets nationwide.



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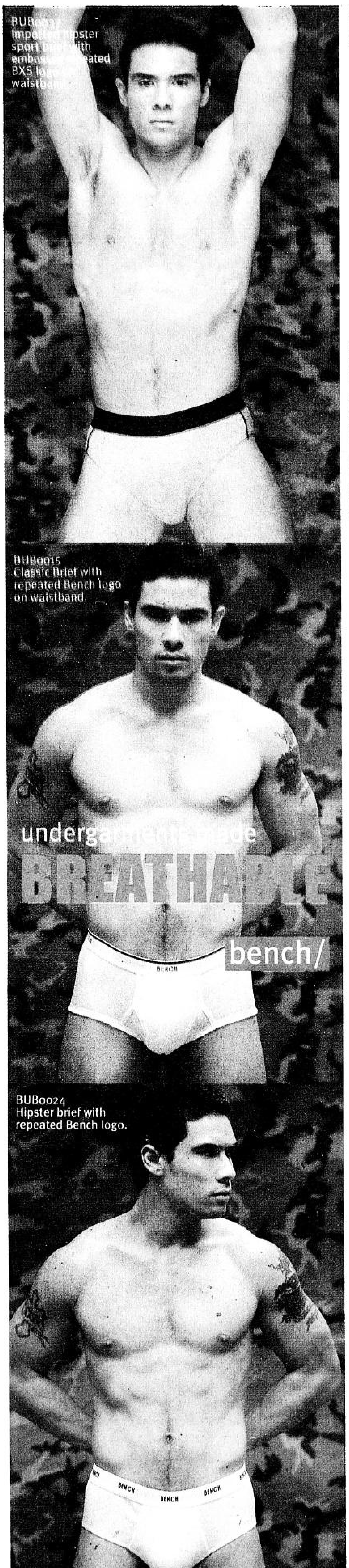

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SMALL gifts, big smiles, says the marketing adage of Hello Kitty. This icon delights the cast of "Cinderella." Hello Kitty bags made for INQUIRER by Inno Sotto

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LOCATION:
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Hello there, not-so-old world

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

DANCER Maritoni Rufino-Tordesillas took a big leap of faith when she switched from ballet to musical theater.

The former soloist of Philippine Ballet Theater plays the title role of "Cinderella" for Repertory Philippines' children's theater. It was quite refreshing seeing her hit the high Cs instead of lashing out whipping turns.

Maritoni quit PBT during her peak, after interpreting such difficult full-length classics as "Don Quixote," "Swan Lake" and "Giselle." Now she's playing to a fully packed house at the William Shaw Theater, composed of children.

The shift has been gratifying. Today it's no longer about being on top. Expertise in one field isn't enough; to gain the healthy regard of your peers, you need to wear more hats.

As Harpers & Queen put it, "Versatility is seen as an effective insurance against failure." Also, "never say die—rather diversify."

Expansion

Maritoni's expansion of options is a metaphor for companies that expand their product range. Such is the case of Hello Kitty, which started out as cutesy novelty items for girls. As the market evolved, Hello Kitty's parent company Sanrio realized that expertise in one field or market was insufficient. Twenty-seven years later, Hello Kitty has a foothold on two markets: girls below 10 and adults who grew up with Sanrio products in the '70s.

From plastic purses to stickers to hair clips, Hello Kitty offers adult products such as laptops, cars, appliances, cosmetics, furniture and other lifestyle ventures such as a theme park and restaurants.

Maritoni, by the way, collected Hello Kitty knick-knacks in her childhood. If she had a daughter, she'd be exposing her to the "Queen of Cute." "Cinderella" became the inspiration for our Hello Kitty pictorial.

Contrary to public perception, Hello Kitty's main market in the Philippines are not the 10-year-olds but the adults, according to its distributor, Gift Gate. Kids don't pressure their moms to buy their Kitty and Daniel stuffed toys. Mothers buy for their daughters or for themselves. They delight in buying Hello Kitty soy sauce in non-spill containers, or heat their bread in Hello Kitty toasters or decorate the home with fiber-optic Kitty Christmas tree.

Down-aging

In the Philippines, Hello Kitty's success is attributed to the down-aging trend. "The Popcorn Report" interprets it as a refusal to be limited by conventional age limitations or "redefining-down" what is age-appropriate behavior. Down-aging is how you explain that "Harry Potter" is in the best-seller list and a top movie grosser and all that emotional advertising of Sanrio that link its products to the "inner child" of the adult.

Sanrio has created its own sub-culture of animated characters. Kitty is an icon of femininity. The fact that she doesn't have a mouth makes her demure and non-threatening, especially to men.

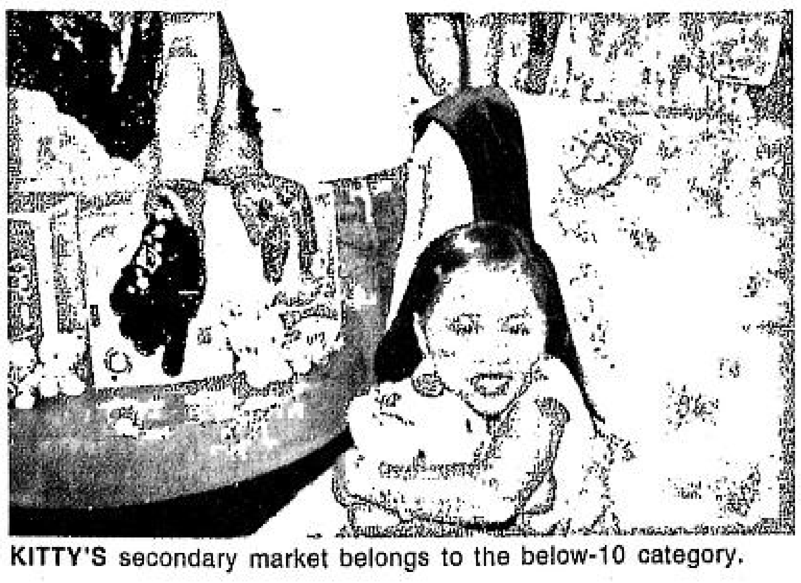
In the Philippines, Hello Kitty appeals to adults for many reasons. They want to get stuck to childhood or vicariously relive youth. Animated characters enable them to escape into a fantasy world to help them cope with stressful living.

The public is looking for new icons other than celebrities. Hello Kitty symbolizes friendship and generosity. She's always there for comfort. Animated characters are symbols of resilience, known to roll with the punches in life and come out unbroken. Look at Kitty, who, after 27 years, hasn't altered her facial expression. Life is too short to stay tense.

The secret to the success of Sanrio's Hello Kitty may be the down-aging trend, the refusal of people to be limited by the conventions of age

HELLO Kitty caters to the child in the adult. Maritoni sports the Hello Kitty jacket worn by Cristina Aguilera over a Kitty T-shirt. Her niece and ballet pupil Lica Bantug wears Hello Kitty from head to foot.

RUBBERIZED Hello Kitty can be ironed on this angora shirt that goes with mock crock miniskirt, both by Bennetton.


KITTY'S secondary market belongs to the below-10 category.

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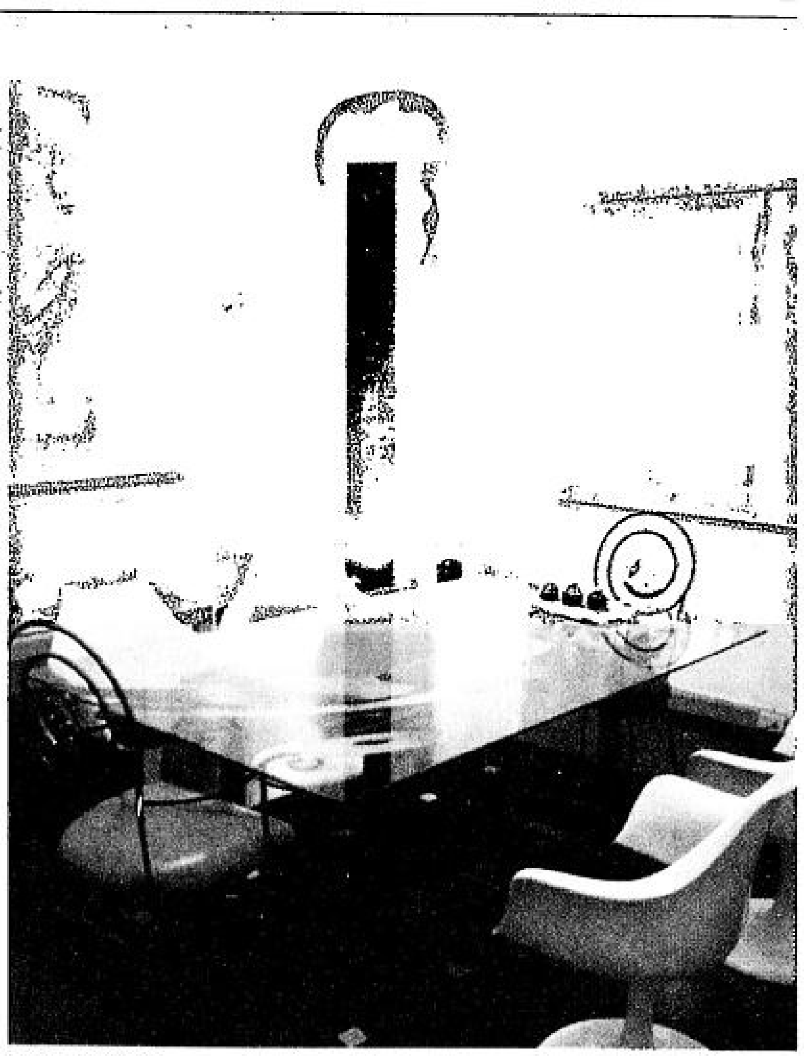


THE DINING room as the artist's gallery. The prevailing motif is water, the symbol of spirituality. The walls feature a glass artwork on the sea, titled, "Poem," a totem made of water screen and crowned with curved glass and painted waves. The tabletop features wave patterns. The wrought-iron chairs carry handblown glass pebbles and waves. Molded plastic tulip chairs echo the wavy motif.

The style road to homespun integrity

(From page F4)

keep the cork wet and the air out. Pilapil sees no problem. "We use a lot of wine," she said, "either for drinking or for cooking."

She did away with still life and country scenes to spruce up bare walls. Instead "Peace," a looming fiberglass sculpture by Gerry Leonardo literally stands atop one of the cabinets near the kitchen door. The twin figures of burly men sharing a single head made of blown glass held by a web of wires seem out of place in such cheery surroundings, but Pilapil, the artist, thinks otherwise. "The clarity of items [within a room] is important. As an artist, one longs to see points of interest."

Pilapil's dining room is one area where such points of interest are used to maximum effect. The glass table, with bold waves in yellow and orange, is a head-turner. The piece belongs to the artist's water sparkle series.

She fused glass etching and silk screen to come up with the prototype of "Poem," a series of several glass panels that hang on one side of the wall. The original, a bigger one, now hangs in the president's office of one of the country's biggest banks. The strokes appear like Japanese characters, but are actually Pilapil's idea of waves.

Her love of water extends to a soothing water fountain by the corner that cascades from a towering piece of blue glass inspired by a stone original by American artist Eric Orr. The glass structure is topped by an accent wave embedded with cutlets and hand-blown glass.

Everything in the dining room is old except for the black area rug with gray and white streaks. Aside from blending with the similarly hued vinyl floor, the area rug lessened the echo in the room. And the best part is she didn't spend a fortune to get it at SM during one of those sales.

"Yes, I have few expensive things," she shared. "But less expensive objects could also make a room look nice. I just have a knack of putting things together and make them look expensive."

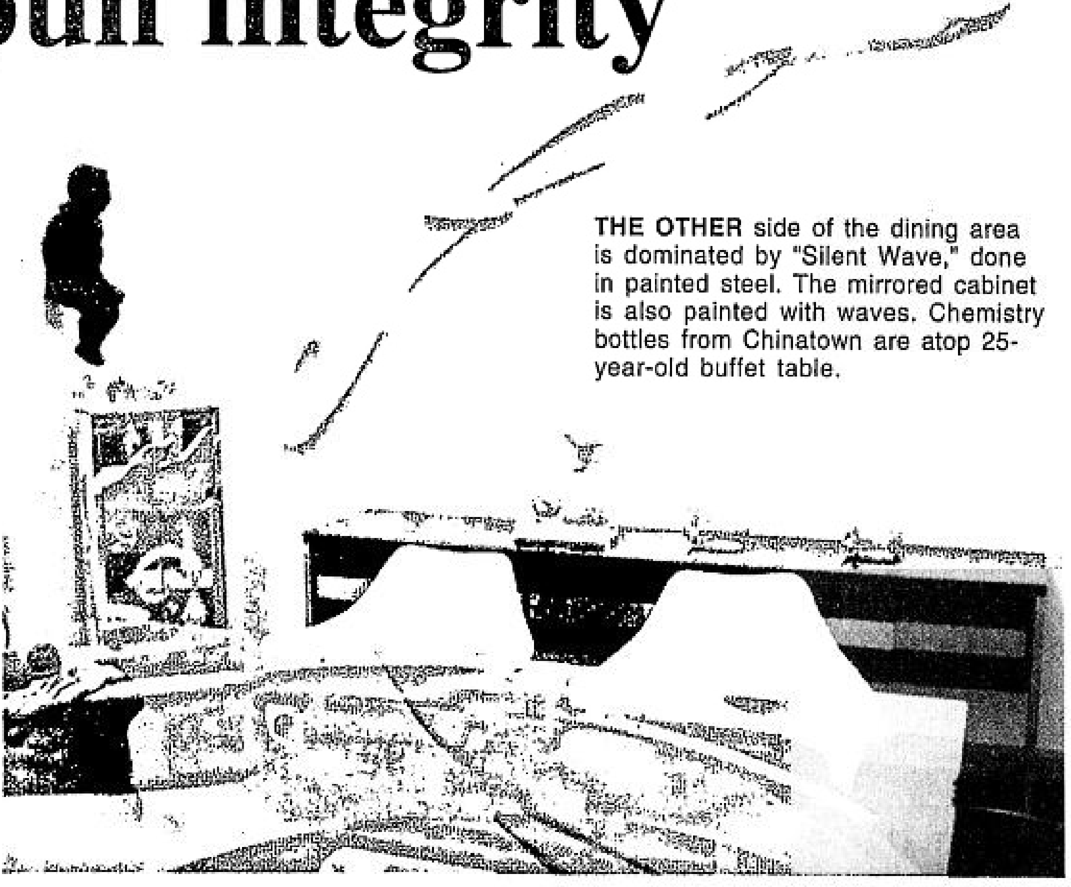
Simple cooking

And that talent extends to cooking, of course. Don't ask her for recipes, though. Pilapil cooks everything, from salads, to soups, down to pasta dishes, based on intuition. It's important, she advised, to use a few but correct amounts of the right ingredients to bring out the food's flavor. Lately, the artist was also inspired by the way the people of the Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center prepare their food. They cook in an atmosphere of peace, love and most especially silence. Any negativity such as gossip or fighting in the kitchen can spoil the cooking.

"Life is a continuous process of learning and improving. Every action you do is a way to elevate your existence or go to a higher realm."

As for Pilapil's Bel-Air home, it seems the renovation is far from over. "This house is continuously evolving," she said, "but it doesn't mean I'm going to add to it. Who knows? Perhaps I'm going to subtract from it." Simplicity always follows function.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



THE OTHER side of the dining area is dominated by "Silent Wave," done in painted steel. The mirrored cabinet is also painted with waves. Chemistry bottles from Chinatown are atop 25-year-old buffet table.

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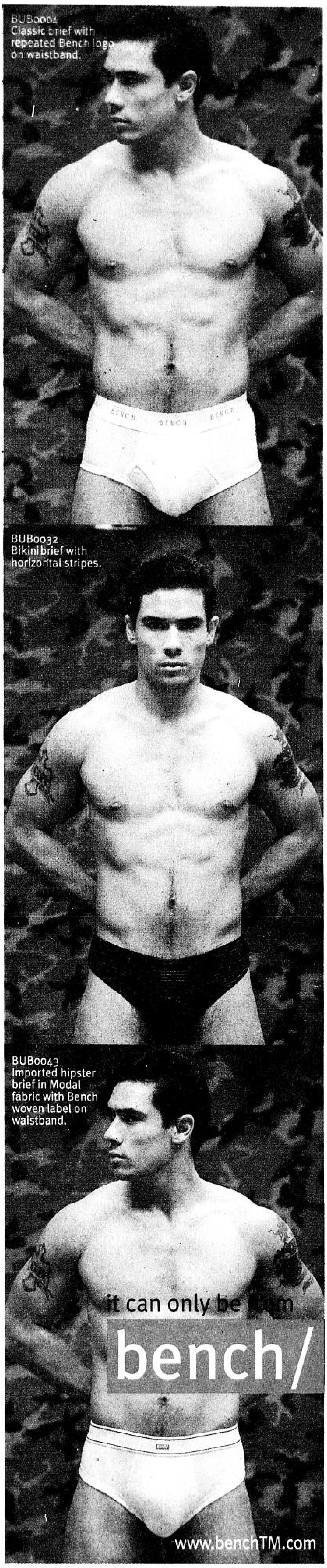
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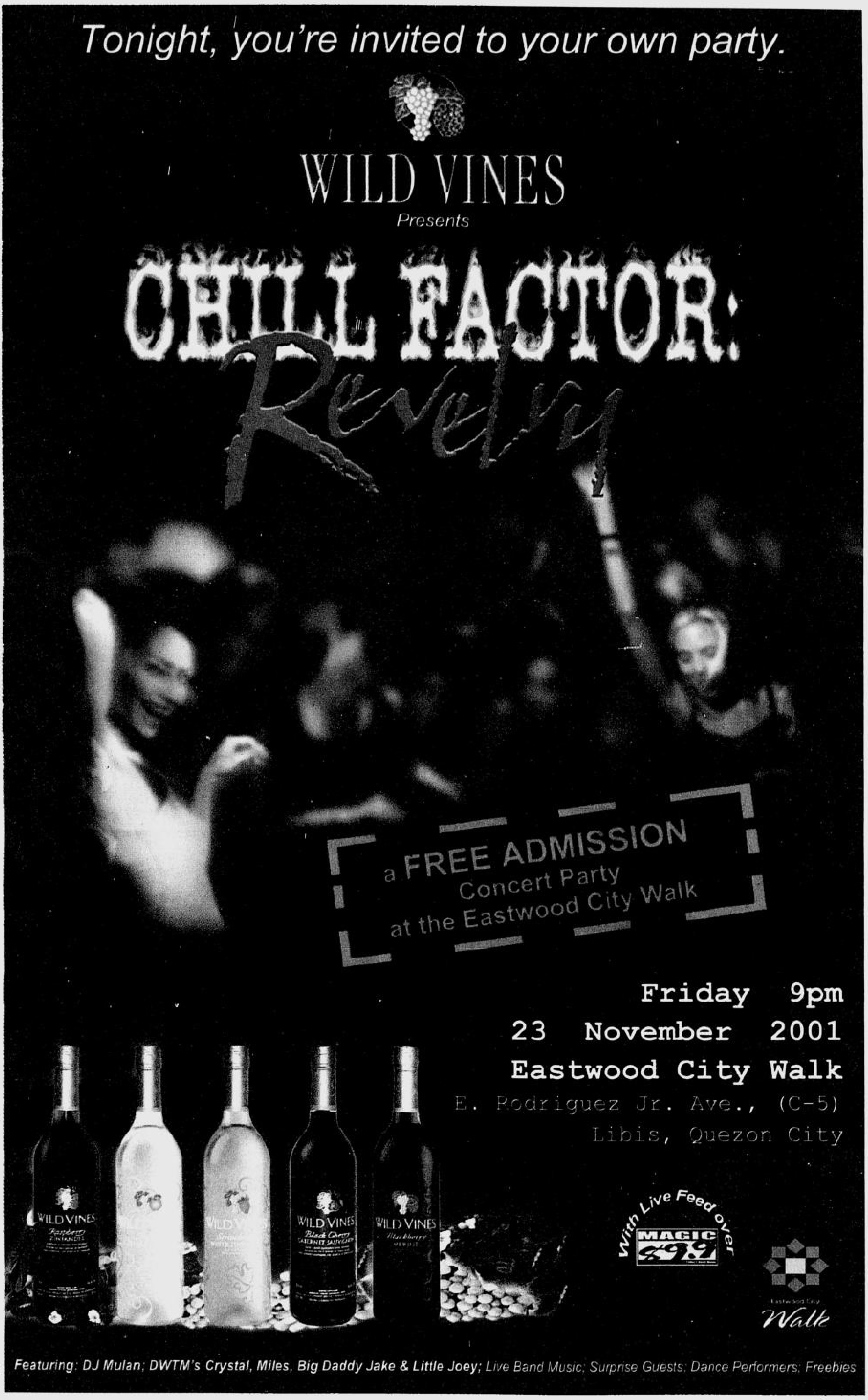
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ROYAL Philips Electronics chair, president and CEO Gerard Kleisterlee with former President Fidel V. Ramos and Philips regional chief executive for Southeast Asia Johan van Splunter

Visiting Dutchman vows to 'keep things better'

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ

GERARD Kleisterlee, president and chief executive officer of Royal Philips Electronics, Europe's largest electronics company and one of the world's biggest, promised to live up to Philips' corporate commitment "to make things better." This was the core of the message he delivered at the dinner-reception given in his honor by the local Philips office headed by Pratt Hsu at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La last Tuesday.

Here on a whirlwind 24-hour visit, the amiable Dutchman expressed enthusiasm for and confidence in the Philippines. "The Philippines is becoming an important part of Philips as we work toward our global goal of becoming a high-growth technology company," he said.

While admitting that the worldwide economic downturn has exacted its toll on the company, he assured that Philips is constantly striving to achieve win-win situations for all its business partners, customers and suppliers. Outlining the master plan for future strategy, Kleisterlee stressed the need to expand and focus on new markets.

"The Asia-Pacific region seems like a very sound geographic strategy and within the region, the Philippines plays an important role. We have an attractive manufacturing base here and access to a competitive and reliable pool of skilled and English-speaking manpower," he added. Further underscoring the breadth of the Philips business in the country, he revealed that in the whole of Asia-Pacific, Philips Philippines is second largest in terms of human resources.

"Our mission is to enhance human lives through technologies and innovations," Kleisterlee said. He then cited the Education and People Program initiated by the local Philips office, which aims to help build educational centers in selected public schools all over the country. The centers will be equipped with Philips products like TV sets, VCD players, educational videos, computers and complete lighting fixtures.

At the welcome reception, the 55-year-old "Flying Dutchman" was treated to a diorama of Philippine songs and dances performed by the acclaimed UP Concert Chorus, Chameleon Dance Company and instrumentalists from Kontra-Grapi.

Seen at the event were former President Fidel Ramos, Netherlands Ambassador Arnold Theo, director-general Lillian de Lima of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Henry Schumacher of the European Chamber of Commerce, Citicorp's James Weir and Tony Lim, head of the Philips Phils. consumer electronics group.

Best-kept secret

TUCKED in an off-the-beaten-track Filmore Street in Makati is a neat and cozy restaurant and piano bar called 5060 Café-Bar. It looks deceivingly nondescript from the outside, but once you enter, you will be amazed by the tasteful interiors and pleasant ambience. Mel Meer, owner of the place, has carried on the fine hallmarks of his Bergamo Men's Boutique to the place. A grand piano dominates the main hall, with a huge faux renaissance mural covering the entire wall.

Of late, it has been discovered by the likes of Martin Nievera, Onemig Bondoc, Aida Posadas, noted architect Boy Restubog, Myrna Borromeo, Bob Zozobrado and former Tourism Secretary Tony Gonzalez. Why, even our editor in chief Letty M., in the jolly company of ABS-CBN Publishing czarina Thelma San Juan, antique collector Teyet Pascual and bon-vivant-with-a-yen-for-off-shoulder-outfits Louie Cruz, was seen having a helluva time listening to piano magician Chris Medina!

5060 Café-Bar doesn't only offer a quiet, classy venue for frustrated singers. It also serves very good pizzas and pastas. You should try the *salpicao* and French onion soup. If you find it hard to find, just hit the street where Cash & Carry is and drive straight down Zobel Roxas. You won't miss the bright lights on the sprawling tree fronting it. Enjoy!

Erratum

In last Friday's story on the Love 14 Foundation's annual Manila's Five Loveliest Gala Ball, the credit for the breathtaking dance number "Arnis" was inadvertently given to another dance company. Our apologies to Ballet Manila and its artistic director, Lisa Macuja Elizalde. "Arnis," a staple part of the Ballet Manila repertoire, has reaped much success for the company both locally and internationally.

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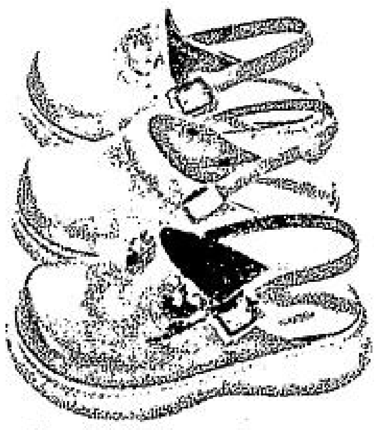
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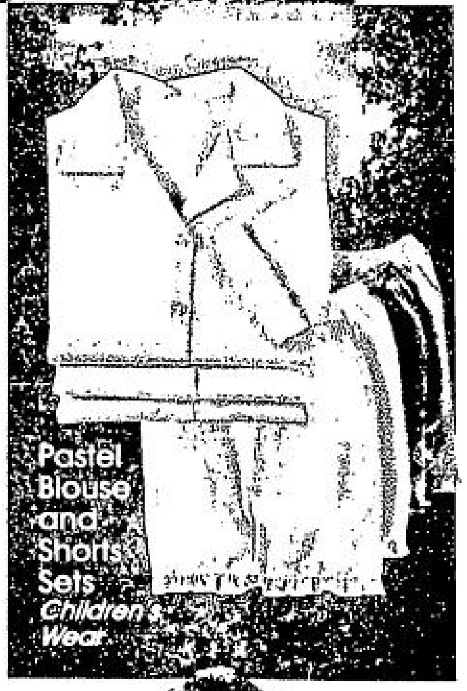
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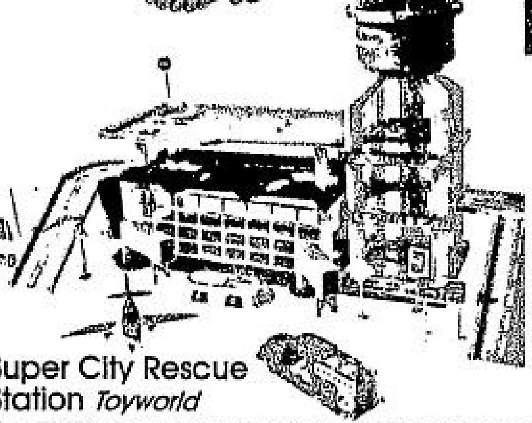
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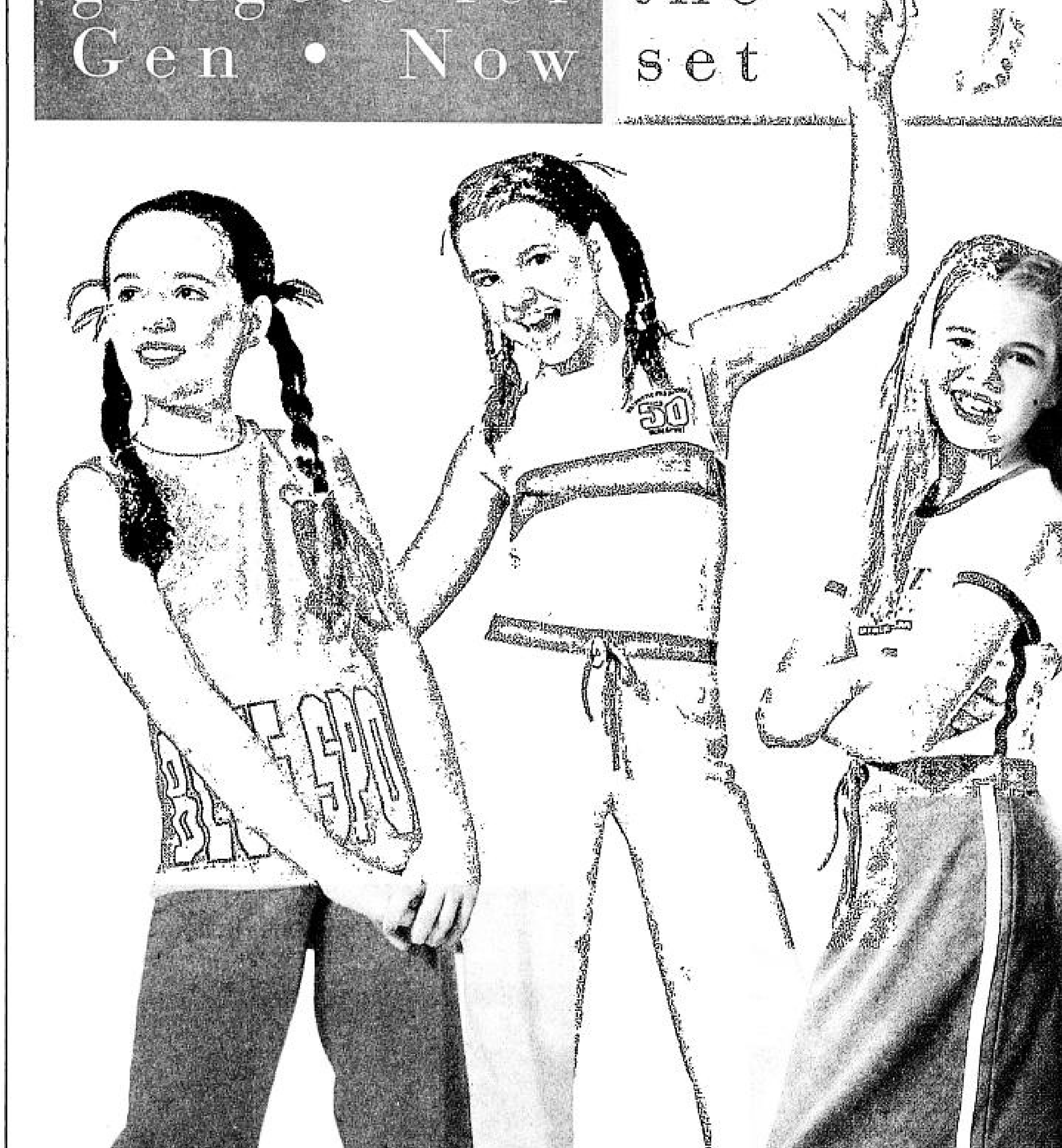

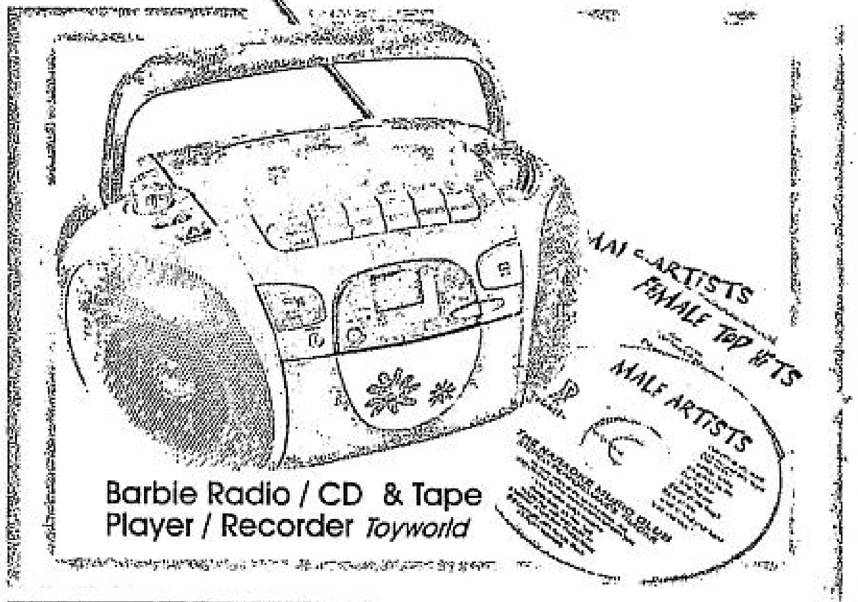
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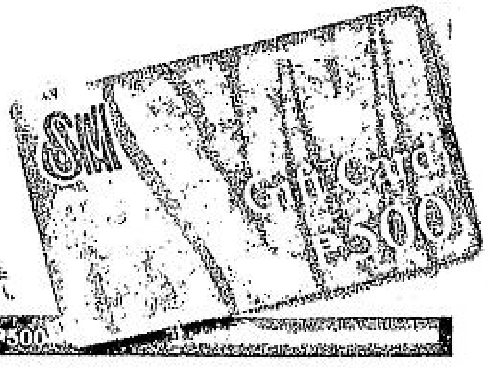

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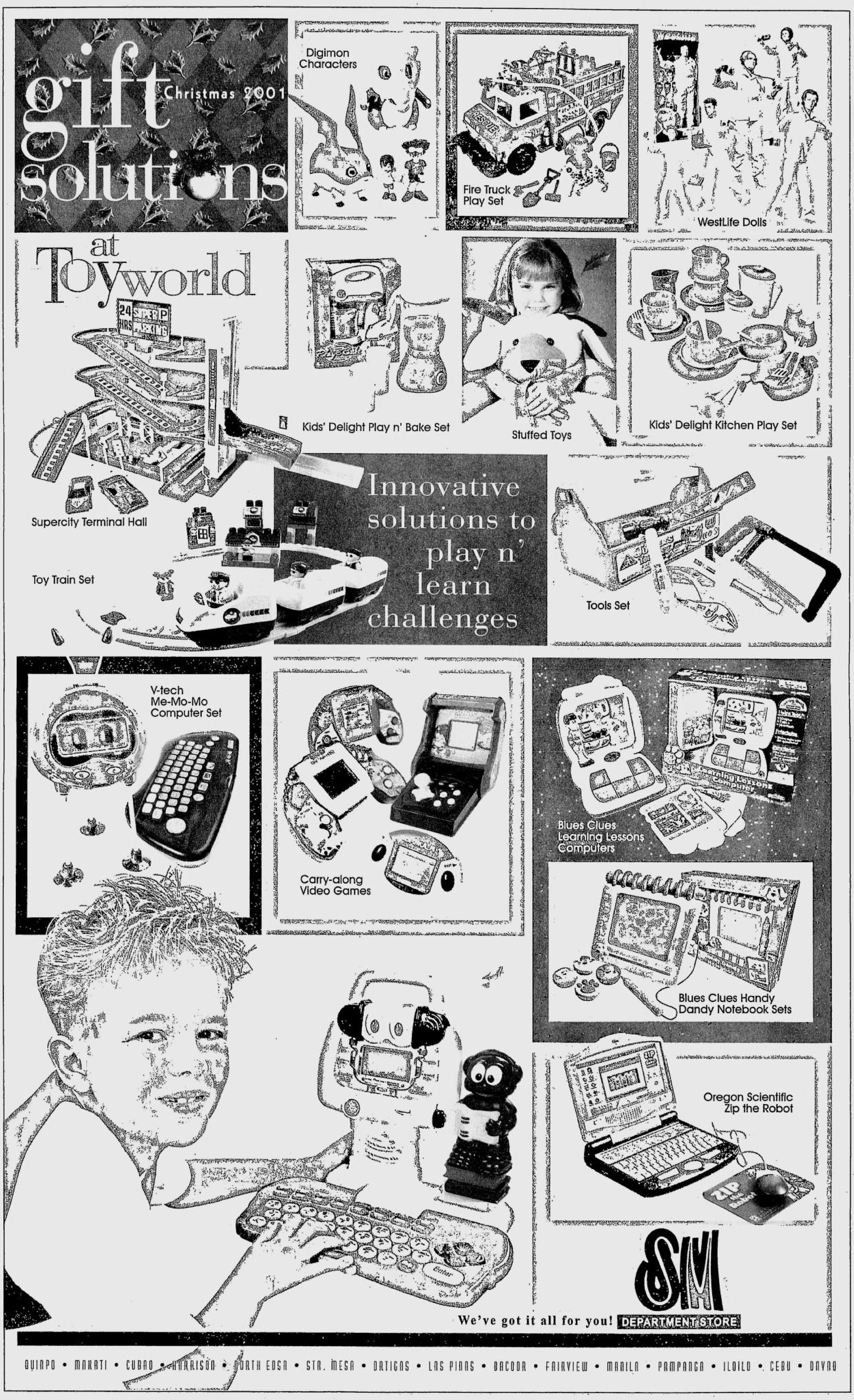

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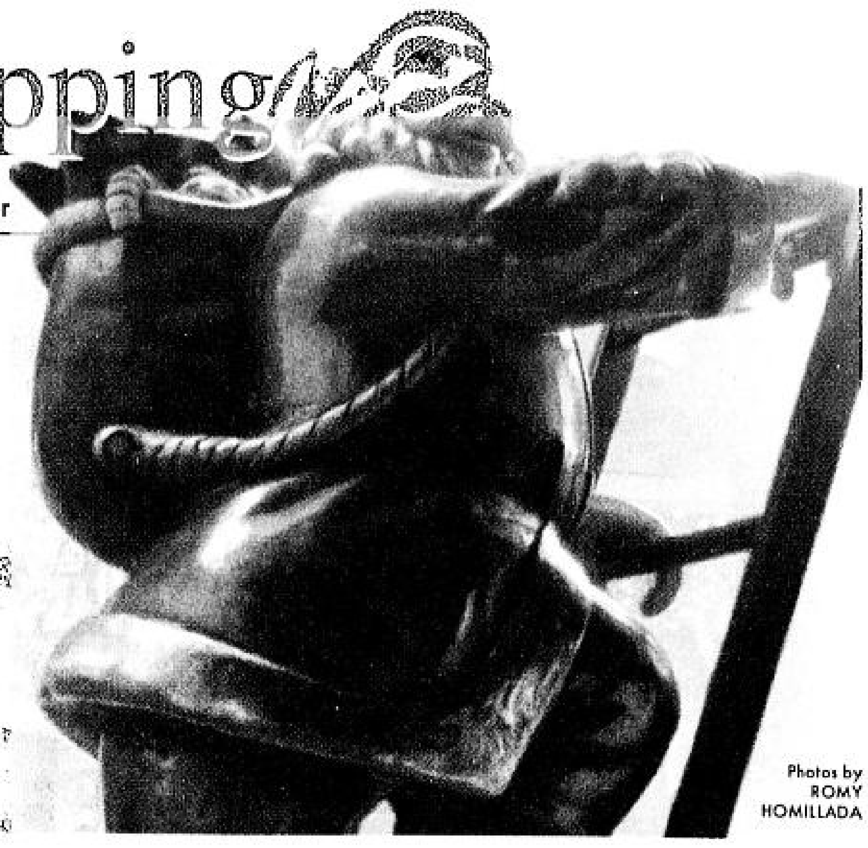
Early CHRISTMAS Shopping

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

A house fit for Santas

BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

The real Santa Claus could get lost at Bahay Samu't Sari, where hundreds of his versions, big and small, fill the house-cum-shop from wall to wall



Photos by ROMY HOMILLADA

IF OLD Santa Claus gets a little tired this Season during his midnight trips around the globe, he could rest awhile in a cheery house-cum-shop right here in Manila.

Santa Claus could drop by at Bahay Samu't Sari, a brightly lit knick-knacks shop on Lacson Street owned and operated by Jo Santos.

Bahay Samu't Sari might not even equate to Santa's chilly North Pole haven, but the shop has tell-tale signs, in and around the house, for Santa Claus to know that he's most very welcome.

For one, everything displayed and for sale in the store are variations—big and small—of the big bearded jolly man in the bright red suit.

There's a life-sized Santa Claus climbing down a stair, as well as a Santa on a sleigh pulled by reindeers. There's him dressed in Aladdin's suit and another enjoying a swing. There are miniature Santa Clauses made of wood, plastic, and tin cans. There are small colorful 2-D Santa Clauses to hang on Christmas trees, and there's a big hollow Santa bust as a basket for goodies.

The Santa Clauses in the Santos' house are too many to count. Every nook and

A HOUSE/ H2

JO and Tony. Ho-ho-home is where Santa is.

ALADDIN and the magic, er, sleigh?

REINDEER? What reindeer? I use camels. Or are they elephants?

SM SUPERMALLS AIG Credit Cards

Celebrate Walt Disney's 100 Years of Magic

Nov. 5, 2001 - Jan. 6, 2002

Disney·Pixar MONSTERS, INC.

Watch out for the MONSTERS, INC. Invitational gala premiere, November 17 at SM Megamall.

Advance Screening Dates		MONSTROPOLIS (10 am - 9 pm)	
November 17	SM City Davao	Nov. 24 - 25	SM City North Edsa
November 26	SM City Cebu	Nov. 30 - Dec. 1& 2	SM Megamall

Photo Opportunity with MONSTERS, INC. characters
Mike & Sulley in life-size plush characters
at SM Malls from Nov. 5 - Dec. 22

Test your Monster I.Q. with " Everybody Wants To Be A Monsternaire"
Join the MONSTERS, INC. Drawing Contest and create your own monster
Watch clips from the MONSTERS, INC. movie
Join the MONSTERS, INC. Tell Tale Storytelling Contest

See posters for details

See Mickey, Minnie, Genie and Mulan as they tour the SM Supermalls 11am / 3pm

Dec. 13	SM City Fairview	Dec. 15	SM Southmall
Dec. 14	SM Megamall	Dec. 16	SM City North Edsa

Join our interactive skating clinic with the stars of Disney on Ice at the SM Ice Skating Rink.

Dec. 18	SM Megamall	Dec. 26	SM Megamall
Dec. 19	SM Southmall	Dec. 27	SM Southmall
Dec. 20	SM Megamall		

See the magic.....
LIVE on Ice at the Araneta Coliseum from Dec. 22 to Jan. 6
Tickets available at SM Ticketnet.For Inquiries call 911-5555

Visit the Royal Gift Shop at SM Malls and see the exciting array of Disney products on offer from November 19, 2001 to January 6, 2002

MEET 'N GREET

Meet and Greet Mickey, Donald, Pooh and Tigger on the following dates:

Nov. 29	SM City Pampanga	Dec. 3	SM City Manila
Nov. 30	SM Centerpoint	Dec. 6	SM City Iloilo
Dec. 1	SM Supercenter Sucat	Dec. 8	SM City Cebu
Dec. 2	SM City Bacoor	Dec. 10	SM City Davao

Sing and play along with songs from Disney on Ice
(2:30 pm and 4pm)

Nov. 23- 24	SM City Bacoor
Nov. 25 -26	SM Southmall
Nov. 27- 28	SM Supercenter Sucat
Nov. 29	SM Megamall
Nov. 30 - Dec. 1	SM City Manila
Dec. 2 - 3	SM Centerpoint
Dec. 4 - 5	SM City Fairview
Dec. 6 - 7	SM City North Edsa
Dec. 9 -10	SM City Pampanga
Dec. 13 - 14	SM City Cebu
Dec. 17 - 18	SM City Iloilo
Dec. 21 - 22	SM City Davao
Dec. 24	SM Megamall

Disney·Pixar TOY STORY 2

Visit the Disney Channel Toy Chest at Toy Kingdom and find out how to win and shop for P50,000 worth of toys! Or you can join the Disney Channel play time at the SM Mall Stage Area to win more prizes!

Don't miss the premiere of Toy Story 2 on Disney Channel on Dec. 25 (8 pm)

Disney Channel
www.disneychannel-asia.com

© Disney/Pixar

Walt Disney

Make you dreams come true! Join The Search for The Singing Princess and win a recording contract! And in line with DVD premiere of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, witness different gradeschool glee clubs as they emulate scenes from this all new digitally remastered and THX certified Disney Classic.

See posters for details

© Disney

SM SUPERMALLS

MEGAMALL ▲ CITY NORTH EDSA ▲ SOUTHMALL ▲ CENTERPOINT ▲ SM CITY PAMPANGA ▲ CITY BACOOR ▲ SUPERCENTER SUCAT ▲ CITY FAIRVIEW ▲ CITY MANILA ▲ CITY CEBU ▲ CITY ILOILO ▲ CITY DAVAO

Instant Treats

October 26, 2001 to January 6, 2002

Exchange your charge slips for FREE gifts.

For a FREE AIG Credit Card, call 636-8700

AIG Credit Cards
MERA

AIG CREDIT CARDS, MERALCO SIGN AUTOCHARGE CONTRACT

AIG Credit Card Company Philippines Inc. (AIGCCCPI) and Manila Electric Company (Meralco) recently signed an agreement which will allow AIG credit cardholders to settle their Meralco bills through their AIG credit card. Entitled Quick Bills, the facility requires cardholders to enroll only once and their utility bills will automatically be charged to their AIG credit card. This gives cardholders the added convenience of consolidated bills and saves them from the hassles of going to different payment centers and waiting in long lines. Shown are (from left) Rafael L. Andrada, Meralco vice president and treasurer; Jesus P. Francisco, Meralco president and COO; Annie O. Umali, AIGCCCPI COO and FVP; Teresita O. Salonga, AIGCCCPI treasurer.

AIG CREDIT CARDS, PLDT SIGN AUTOCHARGE CONTRACT

AIG Credit Card Company Philippines Inc. (AIGCCCPI) and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) recently signed an agreement which would allow AIG credit cardholders to settle their PLDT bills through their AIG Credit Card. Entitled Quick Bills, the facility requires cardholders to enroll only once and their utility bills will automatically be charged to their AIG credit card. This gives cardholders the added convenience of consolidated bills and saves them from the hassles of going to different payment centers and waiting in long lines. Shown are (from left) Hermann Chu, AIGCCCPI regional sales and marketing representative; Teresita O. Salonga, AIGCCCPI treasurer; Annie O. Umali, AIGCCCPI COO and FVP; Anabelle L. Chua, PLDT treasurer and FVP; Ricardo M. Sison, PLDT VP, National Retail Services Support Sector; and Cris Pangilinan, PLDT Payment Partnership Services head.

A house fit for Santas

(From page H1)

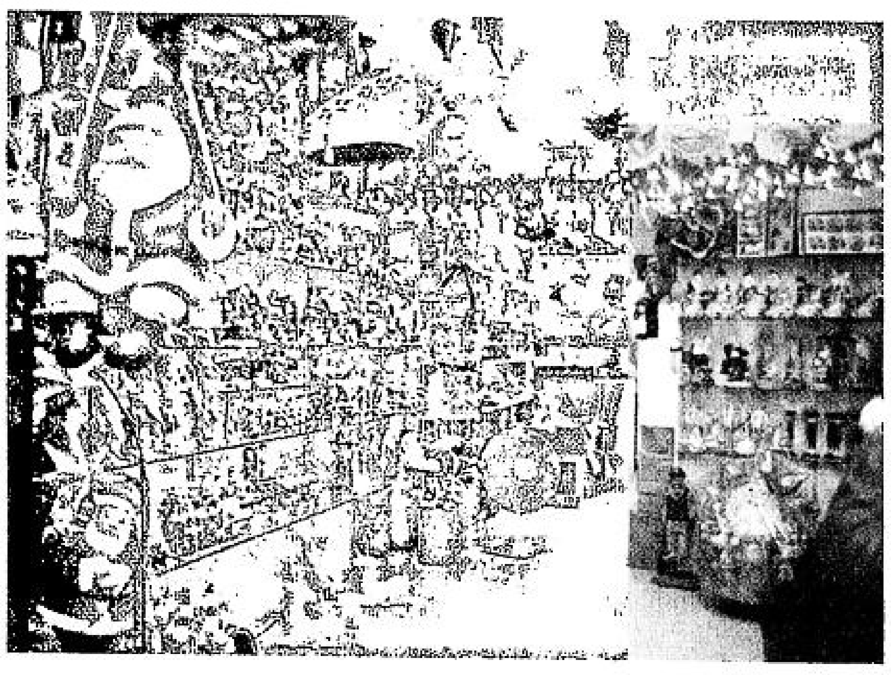
cranny—even the bathroom, dining and kitchen area, and all the walls—are filled with Santas.

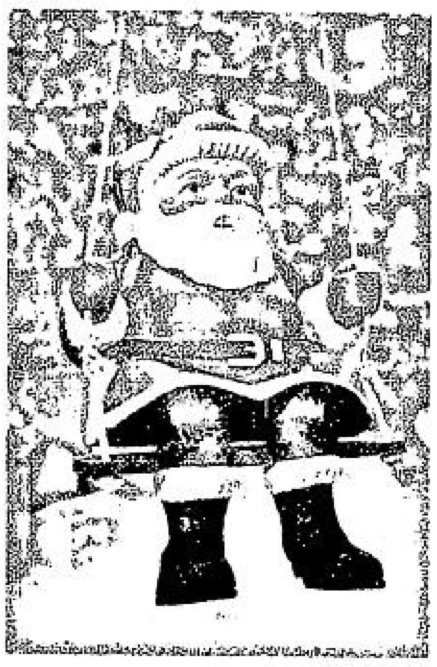
If the real, living Santa Claus stood still, Jo (the proprietor) would hardly notice his presence among the hundreds of his "clones" in the store.

Jo says she started collecting figures of Santa Claus six years ago. The ones she sells every Christmas season (the store is open only this time of year) are variations of her collection which she and her family make out of cast and resin.

"I'm fascinated with Santa Claus," says Jo who adds that her business was the result of her hobby. Her collection, which she gets from different places, wasn't enough to fill her house, so she decided to make her own Santas. Eventually, friends started asking for samples of her work and that started her into selling Santa Claus pieces.

As early as summer, Jo and her family, which includes husband Tony, her four children and a grandson, start making Santa Claus images. ("It's summer and you'll see us holding Santa Claus.") Some youth in her area also help out in the business. "Rather than indulge in drugs, they can earn extra income here." Jo also employs artists who draw Santa Claus or alter the design of some of her collections.





Jo says she has "perfected" the art of painting Santa Claus' eyes. She does them while listening to happy music to uplift her mood. "What I try to do is to make his eyes really happy."

How well does Jo know Santa Claus? "Each of my collection is unique," says Jo of her Santa Claus collection that virtually spills out of the house. "Each country has a representation of Santa Claus. The European Santa Claus or Victorian Santa Claus has a violet suit and its beard is longer."

A HOUSE/ H6

Bahay Samu't Sari might not even equate to Santa's chilly North Pole haven, but the shop has tell-tale signs, in and around the house, for Santa Claus to know that he's most welcome. For one, everything displayed and for sale in the store are variations—big and small—of the big bearded jolly man in the bright red suit.

KEEP YOUR CHARGE SLIPS TO EARN INSTANT GIFTS!
Instant Treats

AIG Credit Cards

We've got your family covered.

ENJOY UP TO 40% OFF AND GET MORE FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SPENDING!

HOLIDAY DISCOUNTS

Spend wisely this Christmas! Use your AIG Credit Card for your shopping, dining and leisure activities and get to save so much on your budget with the huge discounts, freebies and exclusive privileges we have lined up for you.

Plus EARN CASH when you do your grocery shopping with your AIG Credit Card! Enjoy cash rebates* from all your supermarket spending for every single or accumulated purchase of P10,000 from November 10, 2001 to January 31, 2002. Value Grocer is another first only from AIG Credit Cards!

Get everything you need this season and get more value simply because you're an AIG Credit Cardholder!

Get exclusive discounts & special privileges from these merchants**:

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Enchanted Kingdom · Century Park Hotel · Discovery · The Westin Philippine Plaza

SMART SHOPPING
Area · BOSS · claiborne · Clarks · Electroworld · Habagat · Ideal · Imperial · Liz claiborne · LeDonne · Moissanite · play & display · SUITS

SUMPTUOUS DINING
Area Cafe · Top of the Century · Unkai

* 1% cash rebate in addition to the AI Club Points
** Discounts and offers vary according to merchant, item & brands. See malers for details.

DO YOU WANT THESE DISCOUNTS TOO BUT YOU DON'T HAVE AN AIG CREDIT CARD? JUST APPLY NOW. THERE ARE 3 EASY WAYS!

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2 Apply By Phone now! Call 636-8700

3 AIG Credit Card application forms are available at any of the participating stores in the SM Supermalls

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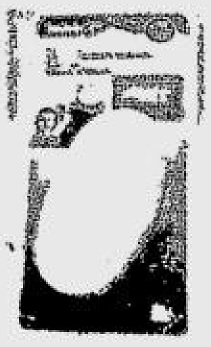
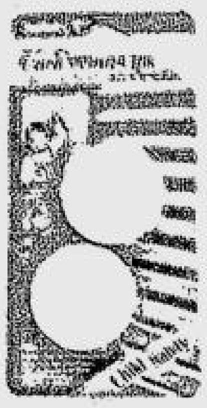
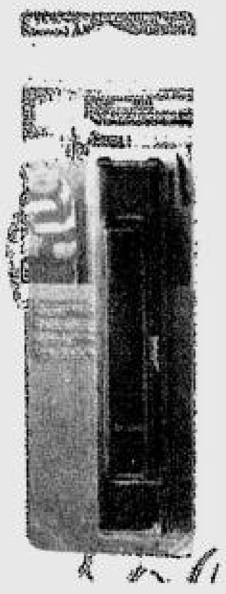
Safety 1st, for 0 worries







THERE comes a time when you find it hard coping with your hyperactive toddler. He roams around the house, touching anything that attracts him. For your toddler, there's a whole new world to discover—lots of things to see, lots of places to explore. But for you, letting him move freely creates too much worries, too much risks for your baby's safety.

Don't let your worries spoil your child's fun. Give him freedom to move. That way, his own little discoveries will help him develop faster, especially his cognitive and motor skills. And for you to take out those worries in your mind, there's a product that answers to these needs. Safety 1st products, imported from the United States, guarantee happy, worry-free moments with your child by safeguarding all the possible danger zones in your house or even in the car. Safety 1st is designed to create a safer home environment for growing toddlers. You will find below 10 safety tips for your little explorers:

- Cover all outlets within reach of your baby. For whatever type of outlet, these plastic covers will seal outlets, preventing your kids from putting sharp objects and fingers into electrical outlets, thus, decreasing the possibility of electric shock.
- Install devices to prevent pinched fingers. This device can be attached to safeguard against the dangers of slamming doors or your kid accidentally locking himself inside the house.
- Provide cord shorteners to dangling electrical cords of household appliances and lamps. Doing this will prevent tripping hazards to your toddler.
- Provide cabinet slide locks. Cabinet closes tightly when locks are installed. It will not even create a scratch on your cabinet.
- Keep dangling window blind cords away from kids' reach. Cords are attractive to your curious toddler, that's why there's a device that can be used to conceal the excess line.
- Put corner cushions or table edge bumpers on sharp-edged furniture and appliances. Extra soft material cushion will prevent head injuries for your babies.
- Install VCR and oven locks to keep curious kids from putting unwanted things inside your appliances, thus preventing costly repairs.

Safety 1st also helps to make the trip with your baby safe, easy and comfortable:

- Install sun shade/sun screen on your car windows. These devices will prevent the toddler's exposure to ultraviolet rays.
- Support your child's head and neck while traveling by providing cushion on his neck while sleeping in the car.
- Attach a soft, expandable material that will connect your child to you, especially when inside the mall. This way, you will feel safe and secure.

As a mother, there's no room for any mistake, especially if it concerns the safety of your child. Only Safety 1st guarantees child protection and prevention of accidents at home with friendly tools at very affordable prices. So, for mommies like you, worry no more. Make your babies' safety a priority with Safety 1st. Safety 1st products are available at all leading department stores nationwide. Safety 1st is exclusively distributed by Richwell Trading Corp. located at 25 Quezon Ave., Q.C.

Hamming it up with CDO

A CHRISTMAS party is never complete without ham. Ask any Filipino. Ham makes the Christmas dining table extra special. It tastes as good as it looks. And of course, one slice is never enough.

That is likely to happen with the CDO Christmas Ham Selection. There are five kinds of high-quality CDO hams to choose from: Pear-shaped Ham, Hamon de Bola, Holiday Ham, American Ham, and Cooked Chinese Ham. Whichever you choose, though, everybody is bound to be satisfied by this truly world-class Filipino brand.

CDO's pear-shaped ham is meaty tenderness guaranteed. Fans of lean meat will revel in this ham's juicy and boneless quality. This 800-gram ham is ready-to-serve, and is perfect as ham steak or as sandwich filling.

Those pining for something sweet and spicy should find CDO's Hamon de Bola an excellent choice. Round-shaped and boneless, it is blended with real Old Spanish seasoning. As a party treat, it is lean and meaty.

Expect the party to reach gastronomic heights with CDO's Holiday Ham. This ready-to-eat boneless ham is delicately seasoned in a unique blend of exotic herbs and spices. With a glaze that awaken tastebuds everywhere, the Holiday Ham is sure to make everybody's Christmas dinner truly special.

CDO's American Ham is a square and boneless ham seasoned in all-American flavorings glazed and topped with a rich coating of pineapple jelly. The alternating flavors of ham and pineapple should awaken the tastebuds this holiday season.

How could we miss CDO's Cooked Chinese Ham? This type of ham is an old-time favorite. CDO brings home the tradition in this prime bone-in ham seasoned and cooked in the old Chinese way. Its distinct Oriental flavor is the result of a longer curing process involving herbs and spices.

For 26 years now, CDO has been solidly providing the Filipino family with quality, affordable and nutritious meat products such as ham. Consumers are assured of the high-grade meat and flavor that can't be found anywhere else. Every pack of ham comes with a free delicious honeysauce, which goes extremely well with CDO's hams.

And of course, how could you go wrong with a brand that boast of state-of-the-art facilities and standard quality?

CDO is truly the ham selection of the Christmas season.

Young .entrepreneurs shine at Super Bazaar for-a-cause

THE MUCH-AWAITED pre-Christmas Super Bazaar shopping madness will be held at the Social Hall of the Santuario de San Antonio Parish in Forbes Park Makati on Nov. 30. The one-day bazaar will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

This year's edition, presented in cooperation with Lux Super Rich Shampoo, will be centered on the young Filipino's entrepreneurial spirit in a modern age of business. This event will present a great opportunity to young Filipinos to contribute to the country's economic growth.

The annual bazaar will feature affordable but high-quality handicrafts, imported and local RTWs , and a wide array of gift items. Worth checking out are "Gift Suggestions from our Kitchen," the P50 Gift Shop, the Bench Shop, the CD Rack Shop with trendy hip-hop apparels and accessories.

Other items on sale are export quality products from Davao like folding rocking chairs and abaca baskets, Rayven Enterprises' hot-selling lemon-*calamansi* concentrate with honey, Negrense Island Inc. products, water lily lanterns, tie dye denims, denim bags with pandan straps, knotted throw pillows and *pandan* baskets and boxes.

Beneficiaries of this year's Super Bazaar are Cefam (Center for Family Ministries); Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Naga City, Camarines Sur; the Saint Paul Vigil House and the Santuario de San Antonio Parish and the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines.

MEGA BLOKS
The Leader in Building Blocks
BIG toy, BIG joy for Christmas!
Lil' Wagon
50 pcs. Php799.75 only
Xtreme Sports (Skate)
Php199.75 only
Lil' Garden Cart 25 pcs.
Php1,299.75 only
Primary Mini Bucket 80 pcs.
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Available in all SM outlets,leading department stores & toy stores nationwide.
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1999
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Grand Slam!
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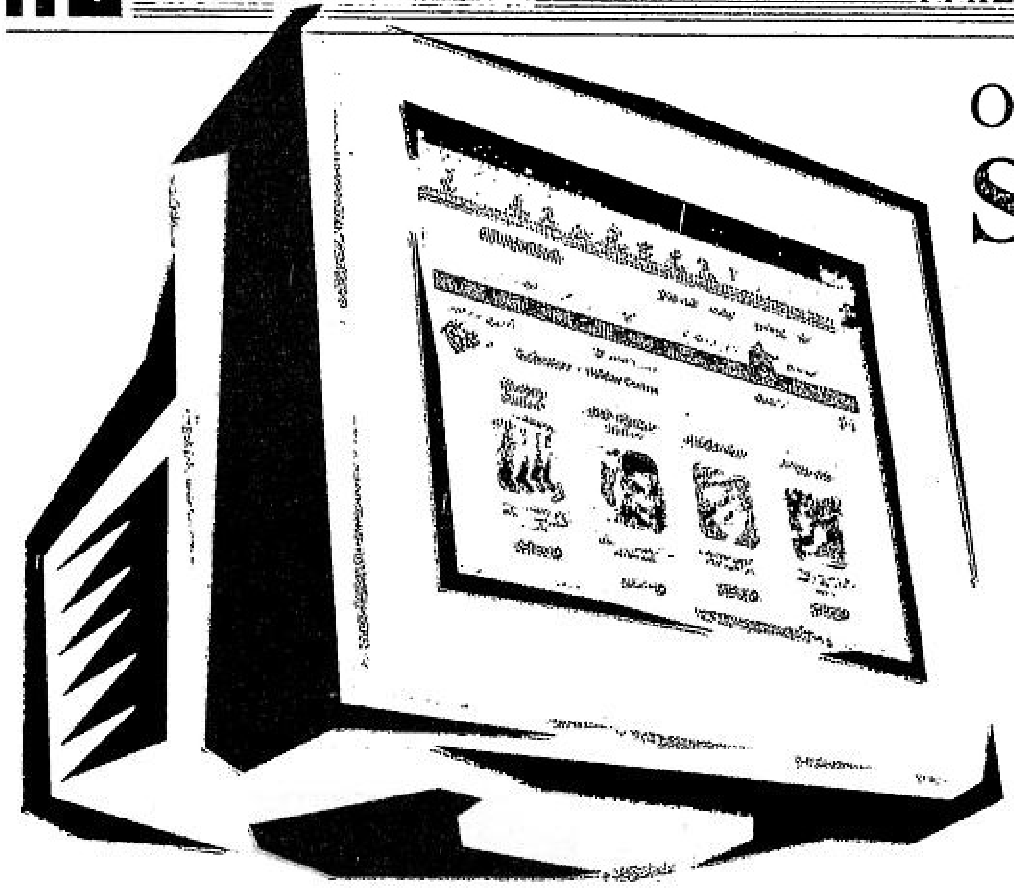
FOODSPHERE, INC.
Winner of the Best Meat Processing Plant Award For 1999, 2000 and 2001
CDO-Foodsphere's state-of-the-art technoplant was cited for three straight years as the country's best meat processing plant under the "AAA" category by an inter-agency committee composed of the National Meat Inspection Commission, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Health. The accolade is not just an 'added feather on our cap' but a solid testimony of our endless pursuit for excellence. Excellence that brings out safe and quality meat products within reach of every Filipino, to whom we dedicate this Grand Slam award.
cdo KARNE NORTE
cdo CHEESEDOG
cdo Holiday HAM
MAIN OFFICE: 360 West Service Road, Paso de Blas, Valenzuela City, Metro Manila, Philippines Tels. (632) 294-1111 ; Fax (632) 294-1016 or 294-0682
cdo Food that Nourishes Life.



ONLINE SHOPPING

Shop safe, wise and secure

THE VAST influence of the Internet also affects the way we shop for the holidays. The one great advantage of shopping online is the absence of any physical hassles always associated with "brick and mortar" shopping. The Internet is always open 24/7 (add to that the 365). With a click of a mouse, it lets you buy anything.

But, like any technology, the Internet—and shopping in it—has its downsides as well. You never know the company you're dealing with and give information to whenever you type in that credit card online. And nothing actually beats having a product in front of you and being able to examine it thoroughly before the gavel bangs "sold!"

If you're buying via the Internet, remember the ABCs of online shopping to preserve your privacy and security:

- About me. What information does the company collect about me and is it secure?
- Benefits. How does the company use that information and what is the benefit to me?
- Choices. What choices do I have about the company's use of information about me? Can I opt-out of information uses and how?

Here are other tips to ensure your security online.

- Use a secure browser. This is the software you use to navigate the Internet. Your browser should comply with industry security standards, such as Secure Sockets Layer (SSL). These standards scramble the purchase information you send over the Internet, helping to secure your transaction. Most computers come with a browser installed. You also can download some browsers for free over the Internet.
- Shop with companies you know. Anyone can set up shop online under almost any name. If you're not familiar with a merchant, ask for a paper catalog or brochure to get a better idea of their merchandise and services. Also, determine the company's refund and return policies before you place your order. These should be posted on the company's Web site.
- Keep your password(s) private. Be creative when you establish a password, and never give it to anyone. Avoid using a telephone number, birth date, or your Social Security number. Instead, use a combination of numbers, letters, and symbols.
- Pay by credit or charge card. If you pay by credit or charge card online, your transaction will be protected by international trade laws. Consumers have the right to dispute charges under certain circumstances and temporarily withhold payment while the creditor is investigating them. Some companies offer an online shopping guarantee that ensures you will not be held responsible for any unauthorized charges made online, and some cards may provide additional warranty, return and/or purchase protection benefits.
- Keep a record. Be sure to print a copy of your purchase order and confirmation number for your records.
- Pay your bills online. Some companies let you pay bills and check your account status online. Before you sign up for any service, evaluate how the company secures your financial and personal information. Many companies explain their security procedures on their Web site. If you don't see a security description, call or e-mail the company and ask.

Privacy

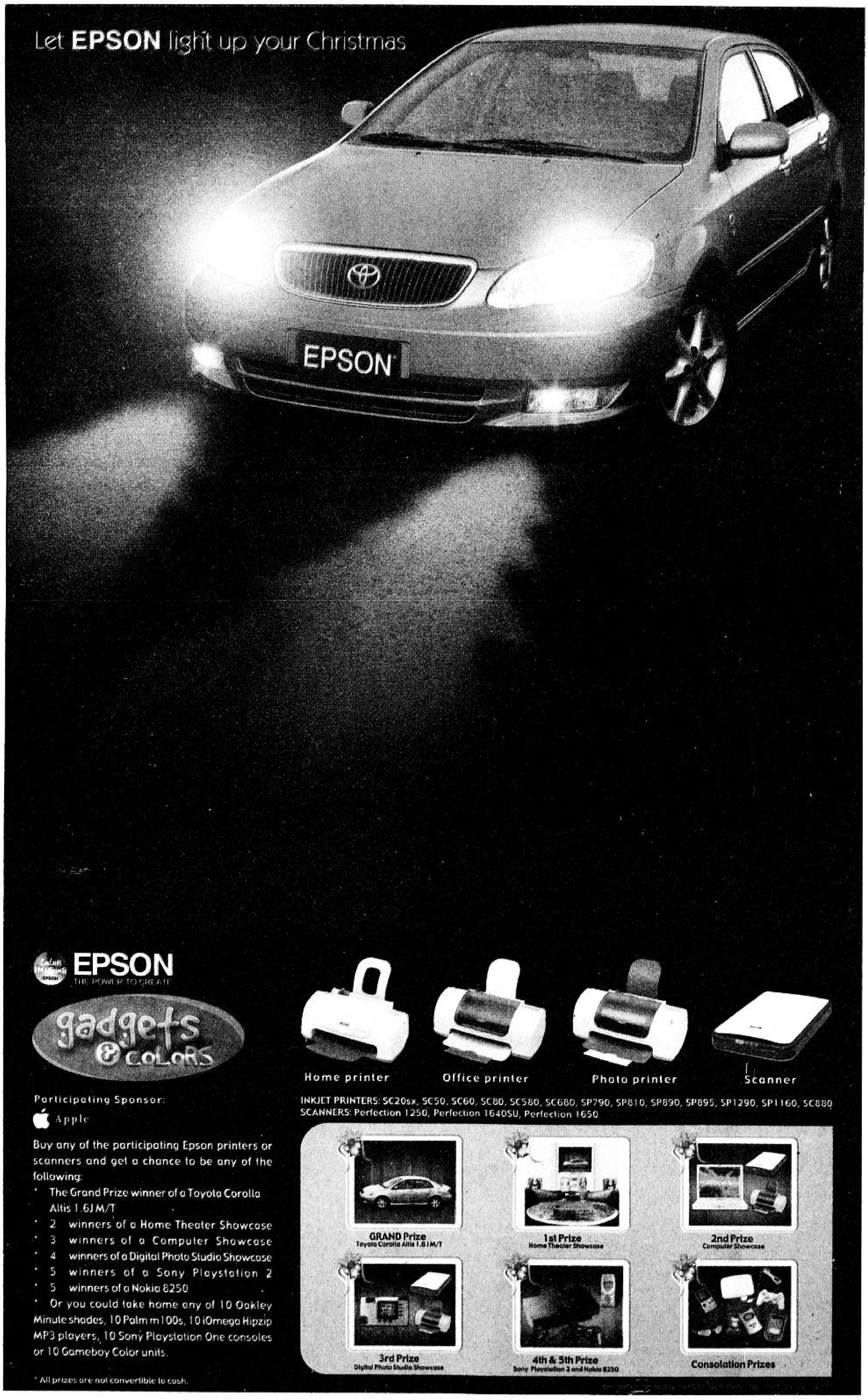
Follow these tips to safeguard your privacy online.

- Keep your personal information private. Don't disclose personal information—such as your address, telephone number, Social Security number or email address—unless you know who's collecting the information, why they're collecting it and how they'll use it. If you have children, teach them to check with you before giving out personal —or family— information online.
- Look for a company's online privacy policy. Many companies with privacy practices post their privacy policy on their

SHOP/ H5

When shopping...

- Know who you're dealing with, whether you're shopping by catalog, phone or online.
- Know your rights as a consumer. Check refund policies before you buy.
- Read the fine print.
- Review warranties.
- Compare prices.
- Check shipping and handling fees.
- Ask family, friends or co-workers for recommendations on retailers.
- Keep records. Track your purchases. Keep receipts.



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Buy any of the participating Epson printers or scanners and get a chance to be any of the following:
- The Grand Prize winner of a Toyota Corolla Altis 1.6J M/T
- 2 winners of a Home Theater Showcase
- 3 winners of a Computer Showcase
- 4 winners of a Digital Photo Studio Showcase
- 5 winners of a Sony Playstation 2
- 5 winners of a Nokia 8250
- Or you could take home any of 10 Oakley Minute shades, 10 Palm m100s, 10 iOmega Hipzip MP3 players, 10 Sony Playstation One consoles or 10 Gameboy Color units.

* All prizes are not convertible to cash.

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SCANNERS: Perfection 1250, Perfection 1640SU, Perfection 1650

Go cruisin' with Equitable Card

HOW would you like to go cruising the high seas of the Asia Pacific and beyond on board a luxury vessel? Or visit an island and be dazzled by its culture, traditions, hospitality and exotic cuisine?

Cruising is a grand vacation that takes one on a trip to relaxation and rejuvenation. It's a total escape from the stress of everyday life, with recreation and entertainment activities and services designed for the modern holiday-maker. For less than a week, one gets on board a luxury vessel on a voyage of discovery to exotic and historical destinations—a world of sun-drenched beaches, mystical islands and cosmopolitan yet culture-rich cities. One can relax on the sands, swim in sparkling waters, visit ancient temples and monuments, or simply shop, dine and enjoy a cultural show or two.

While cruising can be very expensive, you don't have to spend a fortune for that dream vacation. By simply using your Equitable Card, you and a friend can have a majestic ride through the islands of Asia with first-class accommodations aboard Star Cruises luxury vessels via "Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards," an incentive program exclusive to cardholders of Equitable Visa, MasterCard, JCB and American Express credit cards. Equitable Card is bringing three lucky winners on a trip for two on board Star Cruises to Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore.

Every P500 purchase (except transactions from selected service merchant establishments) transacted from Aug. 7 to Dec. 31, 2001 will entitle Equitable cardholders to one raffle number that will allow them to join the raffle draw. The first prize is a trip for two on board Star Cruises Leo to Hong Kong, second prize is a trip to Bangkok for two on board Star Cruises Aries and a cruise for two via Star Cruises Virgo to Singapore is the third prize.

There is so much to see and do in and around the cosmopolitan city that is Hong Kong which remains to be the melting pot of East and West, traditional and modern. One can choose to tour the island and visit many attractions or simply decide to shop for low-priced goodies along Hong Kong's lively shopping centers.

The port of Laom Chabang is the gateway to the many exotic destinations in the Gulf of Thailand. Guests can discover Bangkok and visit ancient Buddhist temples and palaces, the colorful floating market and more.

Finally, Singapore, the prosperous and ultra-modern city-state, still holds many surprises such as Chinatown, Little India, Arab Street and Orchard Road that offers world-class shopping.

Special prizes include Sony 25" FD Trinitron Wega Flat Screen, Pioneer VS 500 DVD Mini and Pioneer NS3 Lifestyle VCD Mini.

The Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards also allows principal cardholders to redeem goods and services for points accumulated by using the above mentioned Equitable credit cards, Classic and Gold, International and Local. It also includes all Equitable Visa Corporate Cards, Equitable Affinity Cards and selected co-branded cards.

Cardholders only need to spend P50 using Equitable credit cards for shopping, dining and much more to earn one Equitable Advantage Point or E-point. The Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards is also applicable to Deferred Payment Plan (DPP) and to valid dollar transactions. These rewards include Palm Personal Digital Assistant, Panasonic cordless phone, electric oven, Philips flat TV and Whirlpool microwave oven.

Shop safe, wise . . .

(From page H4)

Web site. This policy should disclose what information is being collected on the Web site and how that information is being used. Before you provide a company with personal information, check its privacy policy. If you can't find a policy, send an e-mail or written message to the Web site to ask about its policy and request that it be posted on the site.

• Make choices. Many companies give you a choice on their Web site as to whether and how your personal information is used. These companies allow you to decline—or "opt-out" of—having personal information, such as your email address, used for marketing purposes or shared with other companies. Look for this choice as part of the company's privacy policy.

(From the Call For Action Inc., and the US Federal Trade Commission. Log on to www.ftc.gov for more information and guidelines)

Searching for action figures?

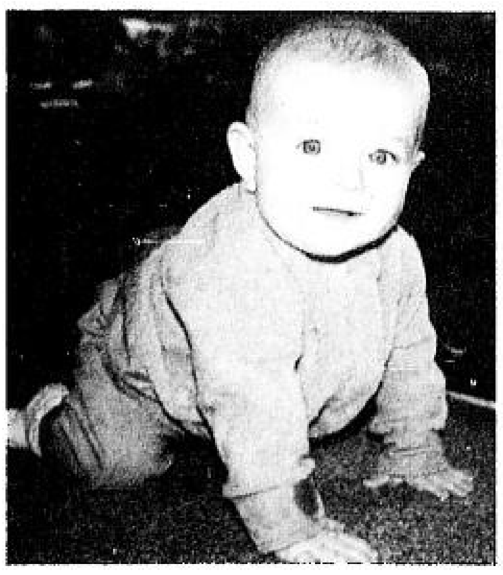
NOTHING beats beating the crowds to the store. Doing your holiday shopping early ensures that you get the "freshest" market picks, so to speak. It also gives you enough time to take a deep breath and gather your thoughts before you dig in.

There are other, complementary techniques to make your task of finding that coveted action figure easier.

• Call ahead. If you ask nicely, you just might find out if the toy is available, or if it isn't, when it is going to be.

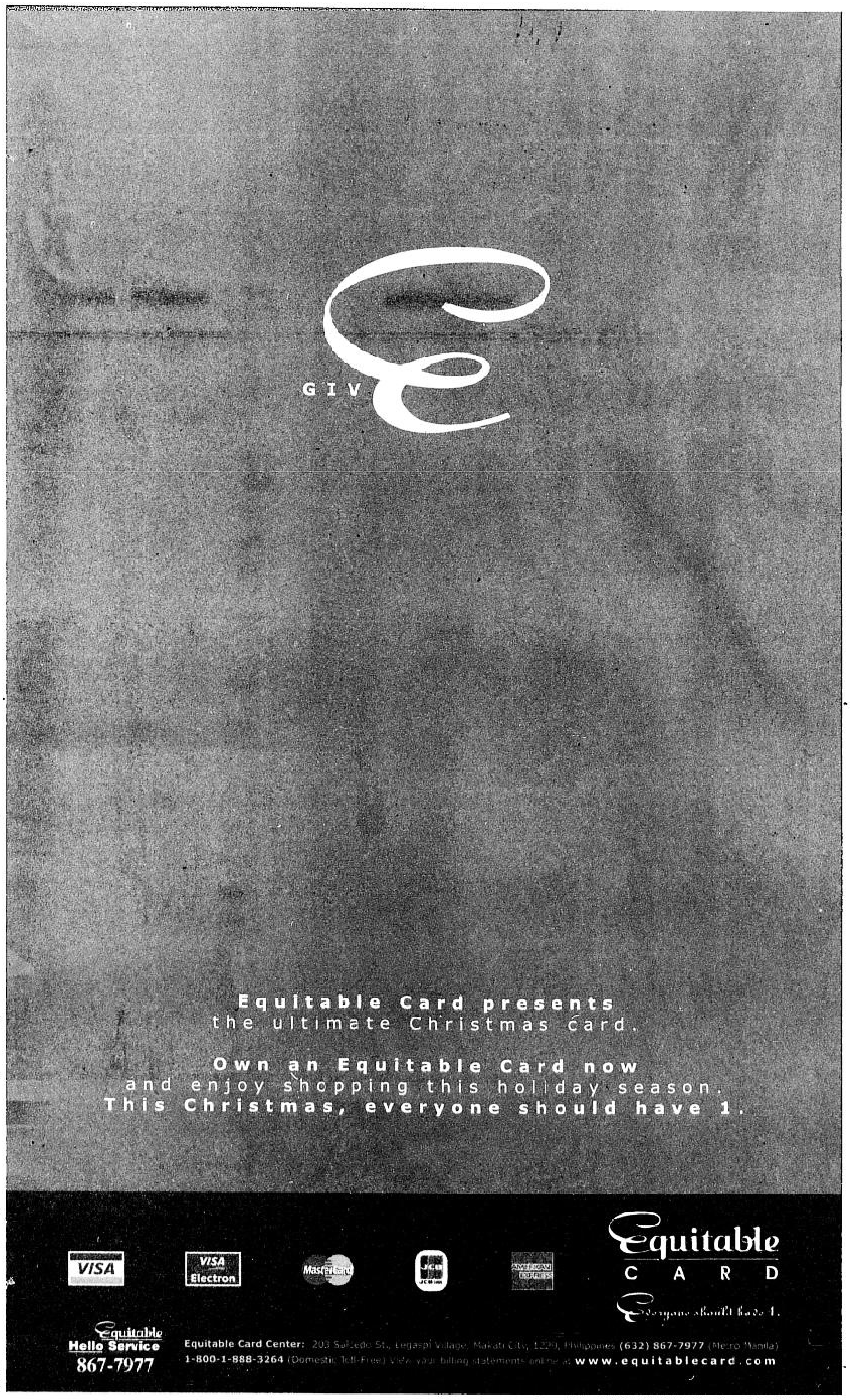
• Tell your friends. Perhaps a swap deal can work for all of you. Offer to look for an item your friend is looking for, if he or she would also look for yours.

• Look in unexpected places. Most retail stores set up toy departments, or expand their toy departments, for the holidays. Don't scoff at C-D marketplaces. You never know, Divisoria might have been keeping that "Holy Grail" you've been looking for all Season long. Check out *tiangges*, bazaars, even garage sales.



DEAR Mom and Dad: Thanks for taking time out from work to look for a gift for me this Christmas. Don't be in a rush, though. I know you've already given me the greatest gift: life. From now on I shall be giving you mine: love. We'll be sharing that everyday. And it's absolutely free! Still, I'll be waiting for Santa to come down the chimney. But Dad, be careful while you're at it.

— Baby Laura Sophie Alder, representing all toddlers



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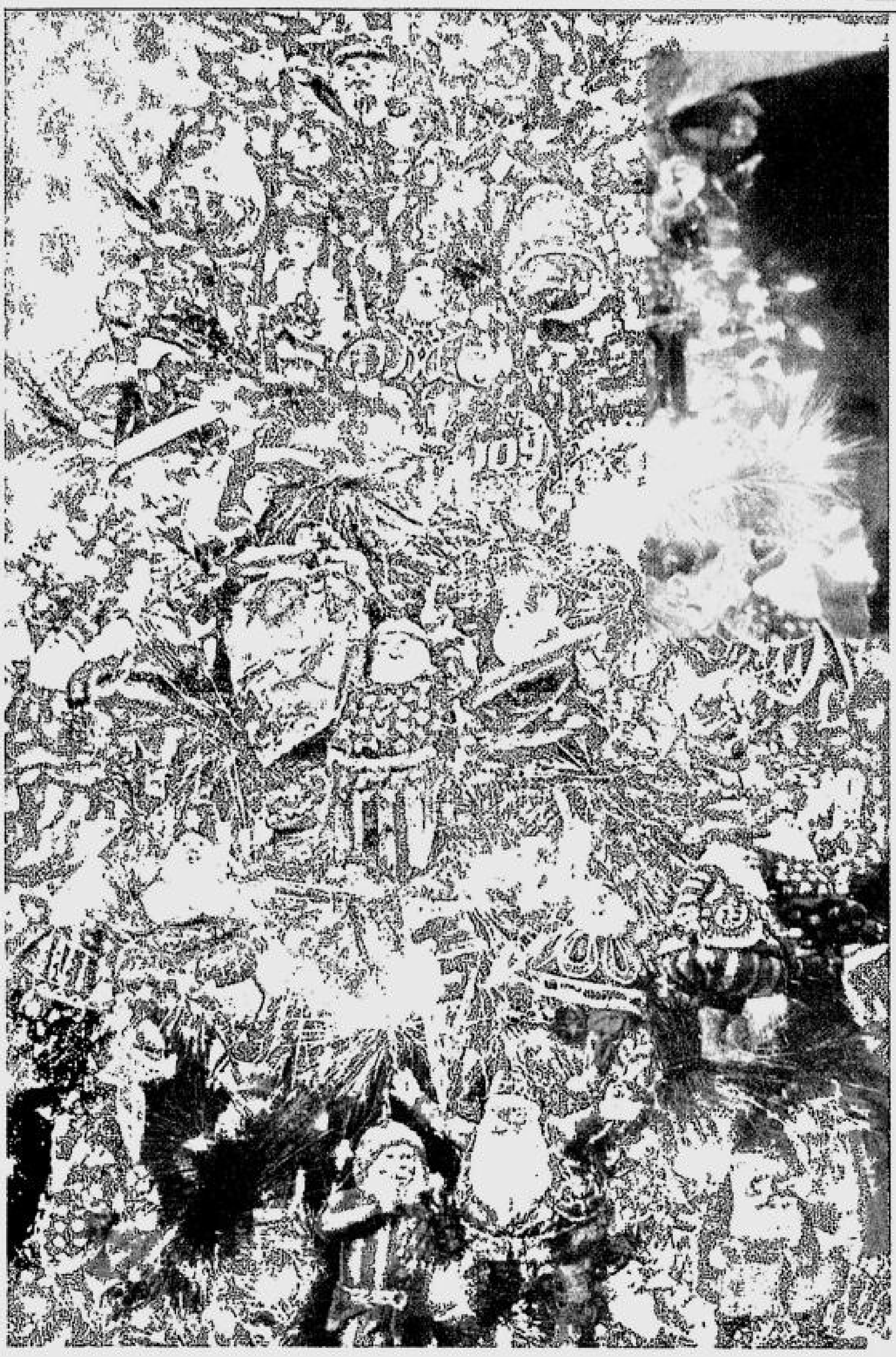
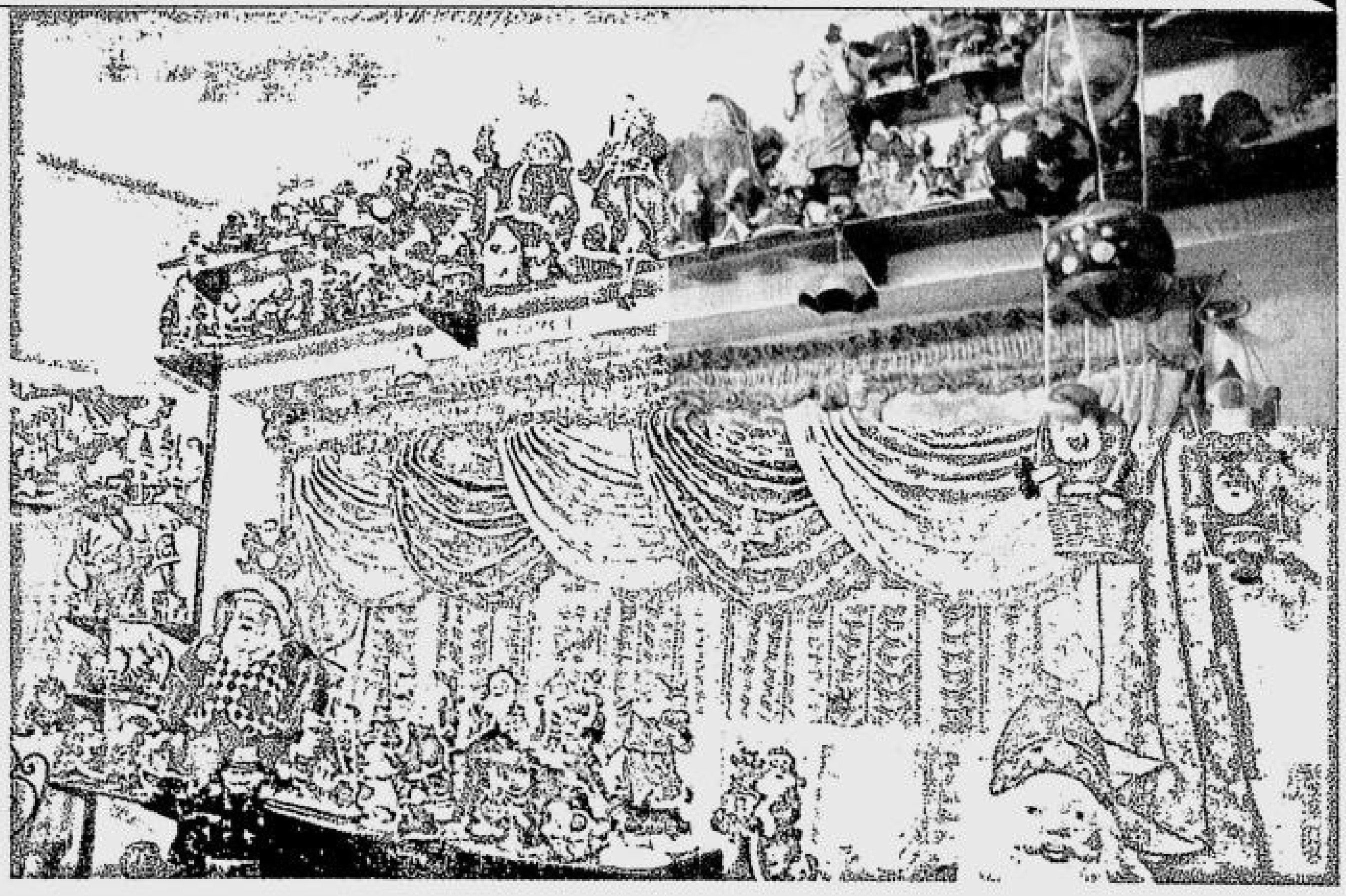




A house fit for Santas

(From page H2)

> 'Each country has a representation of Santa The European Santa Claus or Victorian Santa Claus has a violet suit and its beard is longer'

Customers from as far as the North flock to Bahay Samu't Sari to buy Santa Claus. One customer from Pangasinan bought the Santa Claus on stairs for P10,000. Jo says the new owner of the Santa Claus plans to place the image in his new restaurant called North Pole.

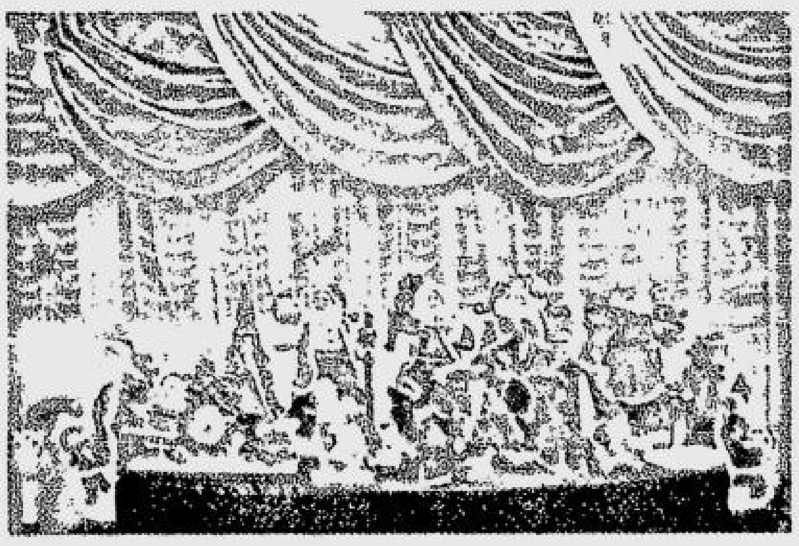
Actors, too, go to Jo's store. Recently, Judy Anne Santos and Cristy Fermin were seen rummaging through Christmas trimmings and candleholders. Some of Jo's bigger works have adorned a number of stores in the malls as well as in big houses in Quezon City. Jo says sometimes she visits her Santa Clauses and she's very glad to see them displayed prominently.

Some visitors come in out of curiosity. Neighbors and mothers with children go there just to see the spectacle, or have their pictures taken with a Santa Claus image. In her neighborhood, Jo's place is often referred to as the "Star City" because of the bright lights. Motorists can't help but slow down and stare at the giant Santa at the store's façade.

Since it's still a small family business, the price of the items at Bahay Samu't Sari is a lot cheaper than those found in the malls. Christmas trimmings range from P5 to P40 or 3 for P100. For the big Santa Clauses, the prices range from P150 to P10,000.

Jo says some of the large stores had already approached them to order Santa Claus items en masse, but she declined because she wants the business small and manageable. She says that even if her store was already a profitable business, it would still be a seasonal hobby.

"When January comes, everything is stored away. And when I put them in boxes, I even talk to my Santas. My children tell me that I might have already gone mad about Santa Claus." (*e-mail the author at rgomez@inquirer.com.ph*)



Anna Kournikova's Choice

Tennis star Anna Kournikova chooses the Constellation "Quadra" in steel

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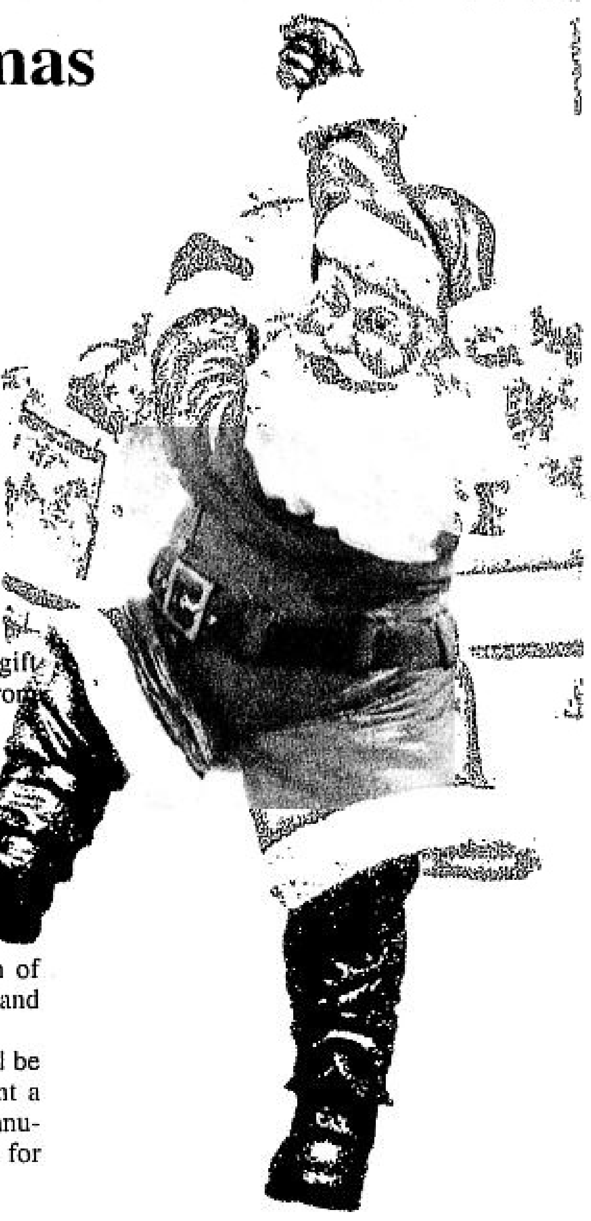
A Jollibee Toy Fair for kids and kids at heart this Christmas



IF YOU'RE looking for the perfect gift for your kids this Christmas, go no farther than your nearest Jollibee store!

Jollibee kicks off the Christmas season with a toy fair at all Jollibee stores nationwide starting Oct. 22 to Nov. 30. The Jollibee Toy Fair features Jolly Kiddie Meal toys and novelties made available recently. "Christmas time is about kids, fun and toys—especially at Jollibee, so we thought of making these toys and novelty items available to everyone, at very affordable prices," said Rowena Alana, Jollibee customer incentives manager.

Available at the Jollibee Toy Fair are five sets of exciting, creative and imported toys available at only P25 per set. Kids will have a jolly time playing with Looney Tunes Inflate-a-Face and the Jollibee Bubble Blowers (Set 1), the Jollibee Stamparade and the Change Me Smiley toys (Set 2), the Sanrio Study Buddies and the Jollibee Wacky Tracks (Set 3), the Jollibee Island Hoppers and the Sanrio Study Buddies (Set 4), the Jollibee Spin-Off and the Cartoon Network Celebrity Toys (Set 5).

Also available are Jollibee Novelty items like the Jollibee Watch and the See Thru Slippers (P50 each), the Musical Projector and the Nickelodeon Lunch Box (P100 each), the Looney Tunes Camera and the Sesame St. Playback Pals (P125 each) and the Jollibee Audio Fries (P190).

Now is your chance to buy and collect the Jolly Kiddie toys and novelty items you may have missed. Come on over to the Jollibee Toy Fair at your nearest Jollibee store—*Napakaraming laruan, napakababang presyo at napakasarap mag*-shopping *ng* toys *dito*!

Savana Commercial Center sets Yuletide attractions

ASIDE from its ongoing regular Christmas bazaar, newly-launched Savana Commercial Center, located at 1203 Vito Cruz Extension corner Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo St.) in Makati City is set to hold mini-fairs at its mezzanine floor, right in front of Shopwise (Vito Cruz branch).

Intended to be the bazaar's thematic attractions, the said fairs will highlight Savana's observance of the coming holiday season.

The commercial center has lined up weekend fairs reeling off with a garments fair featuring an American Apparel Depot which started on Nov. 8 and will last up to Dec. 5, a Christmas decors fair dubbed as "Deck the Hall" on Nov. 24 and 25, a "Santa's Gift Factory" and a "Sweet Christmas Food Fair" on Dec. 1, 2, 15, 16, 22 and 23. At the said food fair, shoppers can sample Yuletide goodies to help them plan for their "Noche Buena" and "Media Noche" fares and scout for food gift items. The Salesite Christmas Bazaar will be open up to Jan. 5, 2002.

The American apparel depot, which will be the bazaar's main attraction, shall offer new and signature imported garments, hand-in-hand with the famed Baguio *ukay-ukay* (slightly used branded ladies' and men's RTW) by Dory's Dynamic, a pioneer in the garments business with branches in Cubao, Dagupan and Subic.

Complete shopping pleasure and convenience awaits Savana Christmas bazaar shoppers in its air conditioned shopping area. They can choose from a wide variety of merchandise at lower prices since the commercial center has now embarked on a new concept wherein tenant-organizers pay a mere percentage of their gross sales as rental fee.

The bazaar likewise features ladies' and men's RTW and accessories, children's wear, shoes and bags, toys, novelty items, electronic equipment, VCDs, CDs, tapes, hobby corner, Tupperware products, local and branded gift items, authentic brass and metal ware from India, metal home decors, frames, export-quality linen, products from Baguio, decorative angels, Christmas lights, metal and brass lamps, food and more.

For busy shoppers, Savana has scheduled a midnight sale on Dec. 15 and 16 from 2 p.m to 2 a.m., which will include a selection of exporters' novelty items, imported fruits and other merchandise.

As a special treat, Savana shoppers will be provided with a free drink if they present a flyer and a proof of purchase valid until January 5, 2002 as well as special giveaways for December.

Bargain hunting for a cause

THE REAL spirit of Christmas, they say, is grateful sharing of our love. But for many of us, Christmas is also a season of hectic shopping—for our family, our friends, our colleagues, clients, contacts. It is easy to lose the meaning of the season in our long shopping lists and our resolute bargain hunting.

But for those looking for a chance to shop and help at the same time, going to fundraising bazaars is the perfect solution. Christmas shoppers have the opportunity to support worthwhile projects while completing their Christmas lists at the best prices.

Popular hunting ground for hard-to-find items at bargain prices, bazaar shoppers have traditionally been willing to endure crowded, hot and mostly uncomfortable venues where rent is understandably low.

"But that doesn't have to be the case," says Anna Marie K. Periquet, president of the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation and herself an avid bazaar shopper. "It should really be a pleasurable experience."

The Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation, together with PCCI (Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and PhilExport (Philippine Exporters Confederation), and in cooperation with Toyota and Oceanic, are putting up a fundraising bazaar to earn the seed money for the foundation's scholarship fund.

Titled "The Season's Best" (send-a-scholar-to-college bazaar), the bazaar offers the ambiance of the world's best-loved flea markets within the comfort and safety of a modern venue. On Dec. 7, 8 and 9, the ground floor and the 9th floor of the Urban Bank Plaza (at Buendia corner Pasong Tamo Street in Makati City) will be transformed into a bazaar shopper's paradise.

"The venue is accessible using public transport. If you bring a car, you have secure parking. You don't have to get wet when it rains. You don't have to sweat out in the sun. You have secure parking. The elevators are fast and when you get off, your car is nearby. You can use your credit cards. You can have your purchases gift-wrapped right there and then," says Periquet.

As an added attraction to the bazaar, the foundation invited special guests for cooking, fruit carving, and flower arrangement demonstrations. Lucky bazaar shoppers also get the chance to win gift certificates and gift packs in the special raffle draws that would be held every hour. Special prizes also include overnight accommodations for two at Day Hotel Pampanga, Tagaytay and Batangas. And as a daily prize, a trip for two to Boracay, with three days and two nights accommodations will be raffled off everyday.

"We are making sure our shoppers will have three great days of shopping time. Our vendors have beautiful products at good prices and it would be worth their time to come and shop with us."

And just as important, shoppers are guaranteed that every cent of the profit from this project will go to the seed fund that would pay for the tuition of poor but deserving students.

Helping out in the project are the following sponsors: Smart, Del Monte, Seattle's Best Coffee, RFM, Manila Hotel, True Value, Padi's Point, Philflex, Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Industry, Centrex, Manco Easy Liner, Pink Patio, Toubig Quencher, Manila Bulletin, 105.1 Crossover, RX 93.1, NU 107, Image One, Gemini Grafix and Events Team.

Christmas@2001 Shop Expo

WITH THE APPROACHING season, Christmas@2001 Shop Expo is set to be in full swing on Dec. 1-2 at the Hall C of the World Trade Center. Promising to be the biggest shopping event at year's end, this is a massive location where over 500 products have been pooled together to be enjoyed by thousands of Holiday consumer folks. All the best products crafted, manufactured, exported and imported throughout the year, selected and laid out by only the best entrepreneurs.

Apart from this, simultaneous event highlights will be on stage and featured. Already in line are fashion shows by Ateneo's Association of Communications Technologies, entertainment numbers by Pinky Marquez and GMA Network's artists, art and hobby centers managed by Artpack and Inday Cadapan's Art Your Service, raffle draws by Cali and participating entrepreneurs and the Christmas Festival by the Christmas Decors Association of the Philippines.

This two-day weekend is also being dedicated and offered to 116 martyrs and heroes who were proclaimed by the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation. Committed to public service in reminding the people of the deeds and actions of men and women who rightly fought for liberty, the foundation aims to complete a museum-library monument on the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue.

A true holiday shopping and fundraising affair, this has been made possible by the partnership of the GMA Network and Cali along with the support of Grepalife Assurance Corp., Pacific Plans, Pearl of the Pacific, Philscape, INQ-7, Nextel Communications and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. For more inquiries, call CUT Unlimited at 371-7405, 371-7398 or 373-3601 local 216 or e-mail eventsonly@edsamail.com.ph.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3910, Series of 2001

Buying toys for tots a serious matter

> Performance-oriented kits should be encouraged for those children who have an inclination for entertainment—magic tricks, microphones, costumes, or juggling.

IT'S EASY to pull out anything from the shelf in the middle of the holiday shopping rush. But when you're buying gifts for small children, the inappropriate gift can mean either wasted money, or at worst that gift can pose a real danger to the child. In the United States alone, 140,000 children were rushed to hospital emergency rooms last year for toy-related accidents.

The dangers are not only physical, they can also be psychological. If a toy is too complex or too "big" for the child's mind to understand, it can cause feelings of inferiority in the child.

So, the next time you decide to buy gifts for kids, do it early so you have the time to think about it. Here are some tips to help you decide what to buy for a child at a particular age.

Under 3 years old

Children under 3 tend to put everything in their mouths. Avoid buying toys intended for older children which may have small parts that pose a choking danger.

Never let children of any age play with uninflated or broken balloons because of the choking danger. Avoid marbles, balls, and games with balls that have a diameter of 1.75 inches or less. These products also pose a choking hazard to young children.

Children at this age pull, prod and twist toys. Look for toys that are well-made with tightly secured eyes, noses and other parts.

Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

Infants up to 18 months old are too busy learning basic coordination and stimulation of their senses. Tactile toys such as stuffed animals and soft balls (of the size specified above), or visual stimuli are proven choices.

Ideal toys for 1-2-year-olds include anything with wheels, balls, shapes (simple ones), blocks, and adult imitations—play phones (land phones, not cellular) and the like.

A 2-3-year-old toddler is ready to test and explore further. Manipulation toys are big hits at this stage, such as modeling clay, soft hammers and puppets. It's also a great time for music and dance. CDs, cassettes, sing-along microphones, toy pianos, drums and the like would be loads of fun. So are costumes and dress-up kits and wagons.

Ages 3 to 5

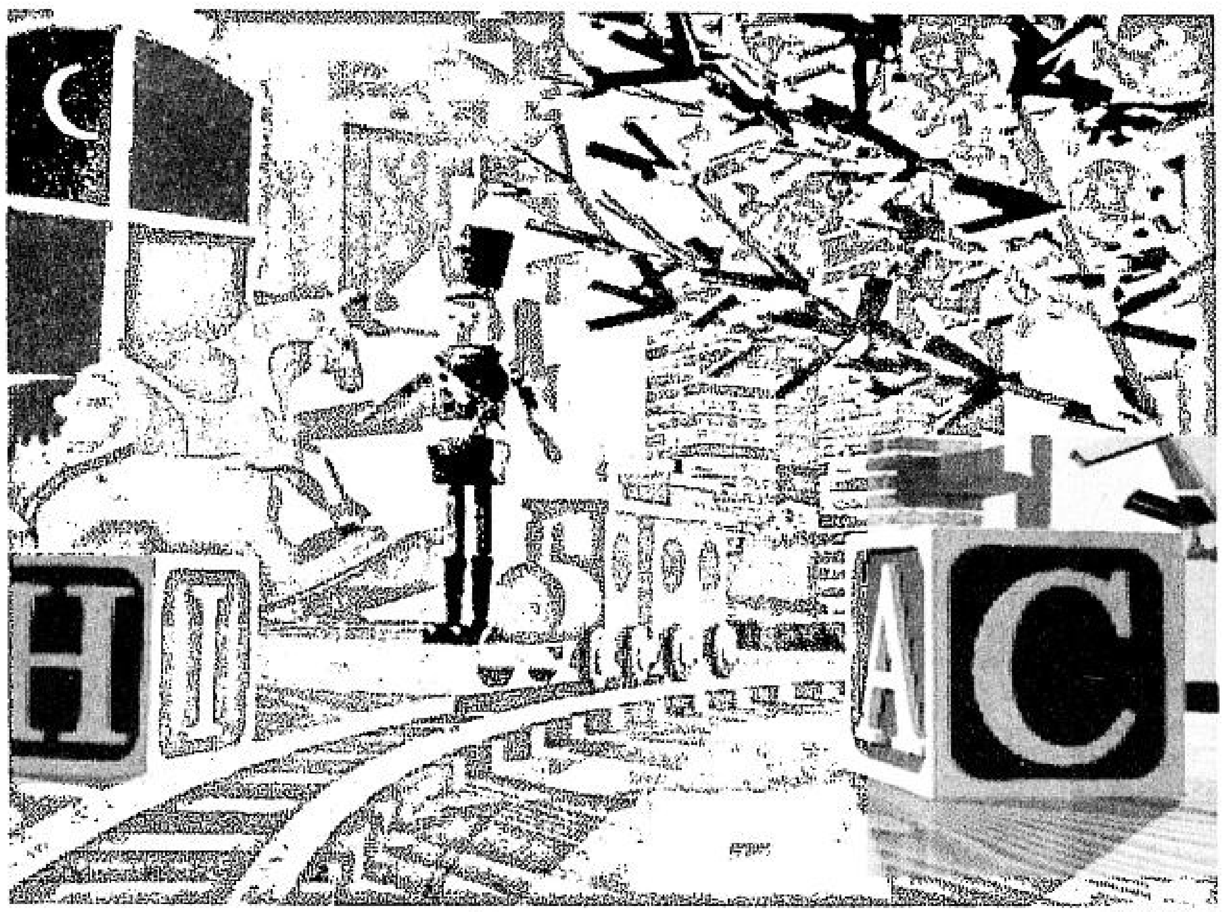
Avoid toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic that might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.

Look for household art materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the designation "ASTM D-4236." This means the product has been reviewed by a toxicologist and, if necessary, labeled with cautionary information.

Teach older children to keep their toys away from their younger brothers and sisters.

By this time, children are playing with their peer group, learning how to socialize, and imitating adult activities. Creativity awakens as well, so arts and crafts kits, water colors, and anything that stimulates a creative impulse (music, building, coloring, puzzles) is highly recommended.

It's also safe to buy riding toys, such as small tricycles and bicycles with side wheel supports. Remember, though, that the size of these bikes should have just the right fit. Too big a bike can frustrate and upset the child. Remember to buy safety riding gear as well, such as helmets and knee pads, and make the child wear them when he or she is riding.



MARK WILLIS

Ages 6 to 12

For all children, adults should check toys periodically for breakage and potential hazards. Damaged or dangerous toys should be repaired or thrown away.

If buying a toy gun, be sure the barrel, or the entire gun, is brightly colored so that it's not mistaken for a real gun.

Teach all children to put toys away when they're finished playing so they don't trip over them or fall on them.

By this time, school is a structured part of the child's life. Play time is also distinct. Physical activity should be encouraged, since the child sits in the classroom all day, and so should play afterwards. Bicycles are standard at this age, as are other sporting goods. Collectibles can be fun (sports cards, miniatures, rocks, marbles, action figures, dolls). Anything that encourages independent thinking, such as chemistry sets and telescopes, is also recommended.

Performance-oriented kits should be encouraged for those children who have an inclination for entertainment—magic tricks, microphones, costumes, or juggling.

Finally, read the label. Labels give age recommendations and use that information as a guide. Labels on toys that state "not recommended for children under three... contains small parts," are labeled that way because they may pose a choking hazard to children under three. Toys should be developmentally appropriate to suit the skills, abilities and interests of the child.

Energy everyday for him and her

THE WORLD we live in spins faster and faster with each passing day. And in spite of the advent of laptops, cell phones, palm pilots and a multitude of other gizmos, life practically remains the same—a constant, whirring blur.

Everyday presents new challenges, new opportunities. You can't simply miss out on all the action. Remember, an opportunity lost is gained by another. But in keeping up with the frenetic cadence of things, we tend to forget the basic value of nutrition and energy in our daily routines. And when it comes to energy, top of mind is Lipovitan.

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